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FOOTBALLERS
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MAGAZINE

Tory charges rejected, Times told

Simon breaks silence on shares row

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

LORD Simon of Highbury, the minister at the centre of the BP shares row, today fights back against his Tory critics, rejecting their "charges and innuendoes" that he is guilty of a conflict of interest in keeping his £2 million holding.

The Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, and former chairman of BP, breaks his silence on the affair to warn that the furor stirred up by the Conservatives might make other businessmen wary of becoming involved in government.

He describes claims against him by Tory spokesmen as without foundation, untrue and absurd.

And in an astonishing side-swipe at the Tory leadership he says that the conclusion of the arguments advanced by "what was once the party of business" was that all businessmen entering government were inevitably subject to conflict of interests and should be barred.

"That would be a shame for politics. It would be a shame for Britain," he writes in *The Times*. He voices shock that the criticism should have come not from old Labour but "an apparent champion of the free market", John Redwood.

However, he makes plain that he has no intention of standing down. "I have a thick skin and will not be deflected from the challenge of helping Britain win in Europe."

Lord Simon delivers a detailed defence of the charges



Simon: "I have thick skin and will not be deflected"

Lord Simon does not say why it was inappropriate for his BP shares to go into a blind trust. Last night Whitehall sources said it was thought possible that insider trading legislation would still apply if the trustees dealt in Lord Simon's shares because he would have had privileged knowledge at the time that he put them into the trust.

The minister's fightback comes after the Prime Minister yesterday published a new code of conduct for ministers with stricter rules on financial interests.

The rules also confirmed the massive centralisation of power in Downing Street that has occurred since Labour returned to power. In future ministers will have to get clearance from the Downing Street press office before they give major interviews to either newspapers or broadcasters or make media appearances. They will also have to clear the policy content of all major speeches, press releases, and policy initiatives with the No 10 private office, while the timing and form of announcements will have to be cleared with the press office.

Lord Simon describes as "absurd and totally without foundation" charges that he still takes decisions that relate to BP. "No BP-specific matters come before me. In all the flurry of political invective

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British fishermen angry over ruling

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

SPANISH trawler owners are entitled to claim compensation for the multimillion-pound losses they claim they suffered while illegally excluded from British fishing waters, the High Court ruled yesterday.

British trawlermen, who say the Spanish are being rewarded for stealing British fish, responded angrily to the judgement, which could cost taxpayers more than £50 million in damages.

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All the Spanish claimants employ "quota-hopping", which allows foreigners to buy British fishing licences and register their boats here, so gaining the right to catch fish allocated by the European Union to the British fleet.

Their claims refer to a period of nearly two years, between 1989 and 1991, when about 150 vessels owned or managed by Spanish companies were taken off the register under the 1988 Merchant Shipping Act.

The Act requires that 75 per cent of the owners and crews of British-registered vessels must be domiciled in Britain, but that was over-ruled in 1990 by the European Court of Justice.

Lord Justice Hobhouse, sitting with Mr Justice Collins and Mr Justice Moses, ruled that the breach of EU law by Britain was "sufficiently serious to give rise to liability for any damage that may subsequently be shown to have been caused to the applicants". But the judges rejected a claim for punitive damages and cleared the previous Government of acting in bad faith.

Ninety-seven Spanish owners and managers of 107 vessels estimate that each of their boats lost between £350,000 and £500,000 by being prevented from trawling in UK waters. Each of the applicants will now have to submit an individual claim to a judge or an official referee and show that the damage was in fact caused, a procedure likely to take many months.

Lord Falconer, the Solicitor-General, told the court that the Government was considering an appeal against the judgement.



"Next year I'm going to choose our holiday reading"

Legal move on Aids infection

The Government is considering making it an offence intentionally to infect another person with a disease, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said in a Commons written answer.

The announcement came on the day that Paul Georgiou was jailed by a Cypriot court for 15 months for knowingly infecting his British lover Janette Pink with the Aids virus. Page 9

Property sale

The Department of Social Security is to sell its property portfolio, worth £400 million, to Partnership Property Management, a consortium led by Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank. It will be the UK's largest single real estate transaction. Page 21

Drug bans eased

Lindford Christie condemned a decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation to reduce bans on athletes found guilty of drug taking from four to two years. He said it would only increase drug-taking. Pages 38, 40



Robert Ballard announcing his discovery, with some of the artefacts in front

Titanic explorer finds graveyard of treasures

By Tom Rhodes and Nick Nuttall

THE explorer who found the wreck of the *Titanic* has used an underwater robot and a once-secret nuclear submarine to prowl the depths of the Mediterranean, discovering the greatest concentration of ancient shipwrecks.

Robert Ballard, whose detection of the ocean liner and the German battleship *Bismarck* have earned him a reputation as the Indiana Jones of underwater exploration, was joined by two British archaeologists in his latest venture, a project that will make recoverable almost every object ever sunk.

During a six-week expedition in May to the Mediterranean trading route that linked ancient Rome with Carthage, Mr Ballard and his team of researchers found eight ships and thousands of pristine artefacts spanning more than 2,000 years. The area, northwest of Sicily, endures unpredictable storms and violent seas and is described as being similar to the infamous Bermuda Triangle, the site of numerous wrecked and lost vessels.

Until now, no big shipwreck has been discovered below 200 feet. But the modern technology employed by the Ballard expedition can extend to depths of 20,000ft, enough to reach 98 per cent of all ocean floors. "I'm convinced that the deep sea holds a vast amount of human history, more than is held in all of the museums of the world," Mr Ballard told the National Geographic Society in Washington.

Among those who took part in the exploration were Jonathan Adams of the Centre for Marine Archaeology at the University of Southampton

and Cathy Giangrande, a conservationist at University College London. Equipped with *NR-1*, a US Navy nuclear submarine, Carolyn Chouest, a support ship, and *Jason*, an unmanned submersible vessel, the team found five Roman ships from 200 BC to AD 400, an Islamic fishing vessel from the 17th or 18th century and two ships from the 19th century.

The oldest craft, 100ft long and carrying two lead anchors, was one of the earliest Roman wrecks found. Her holds were filled with fine bronze vessels and at least eight different types of amphorae, the clay containers used to transport wine, olive oil, fish sauce and preserved fruit. Another Roman galley carried a cargo of granite building stones and monolithic columns apparently ready for assembly into a temple.

Mr Ballard, of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts, and president of the newly founded Institute for Exploration in Mystic, Connecticut, said the group of scientists had been amazed by their finds which at first they had thought had all been sunk at the same time.

"At one point the submarine was finding a Roman ship every other day. We had to tell them to stop," he said. "All of a sudden we realised we had found a graveyard of ships spanning 2,000 years."

After the submarine had located a wreck, the support ship maintained its position above while *Jason* was dispatched with its radar and cameras. Its scanning sonar was used to build a three-dimensional map of the wreck site before, on autopilot, it moved at an inch a second photographing the wreckage and artefacts. Finally the pilots at the surface manoeuvred its robotic arm to recover only those pieces necessary for dating the wrecks.

"Removing artefacts in essence destroys the site," Mr Ballard said. "In future we can have in situ deep ocean museums that we can visit electronically."

Along the route, which he had predicted would be littered with shipwrecks, the submarine found a 20-square mile area strewn with debris. By comparison, the *Titanic* and *Bismarck* were found with fragments spread over only half a mile. This not merely suggested heavy traffic along the trading route used by Romans and Phoenicians, but also heralded the prospect of hundreds more shipwrecks off Greece and Egypt.

A jug for table use lifted from a trading ship

Marine technology, page 3

Mills in fight for credibility after third court attack

By Richard Ford and Frances Gibb

DAME Barbara Mills was fighting last night to restore her credibility as Director of Public Prosecutions as the Government further reduced her independence after the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was castigated in the courts for the third time in a week.

Lord Justice Rose, the second most senior criminal judge, accused the CPS of repeatedly taking "a flawed approach" in its decision not to prosecute four former members of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad.

The ruling deepened the crisis surrounding the operation of the CPS and within hours Dame Barbara held a meeting with one of the Government's Law Officers where it was agreed to extend the terms of reference of the enquiry into two "deaths in police custody" cases to cover the Derek Treadaway case.

Yesterday's judgment — which prompted immediate speculation about the DPP's future — coincides with the disclosure that the senior judiciary has delivered a damning indictment of the CPS's performance to Sir Ian Glidewell, the former Court of Appeal judge, conducting the Government review into the service.

A letter drafted on behalf of the judiciary by Lord Justice Auld is believed to conclude that the CPS is struggling to cope and that the delivery of the service on the ground is badly failing.

The critique, based on soundings from the 500-strong circuit bench and from High Court judges, will be a further blow to Dame Barbara.

Yesterday Lord Justice Auld declined to discuss the contents of the letter. But some judges have made no secret of their views that the CPS is blighted by constant delays, caused by inadequate resources and a shortage of senior staff to take the relevant decisions.

Earlier in the High Court, Lord Justice Rose had delivered a stinging judgment in the latest challenge to a CPS decision not to bring a prosecution against police officers.

Derek Treadaway, who spent 13 years in jail before his conviction for robbery and conspiracy to rob was quashed, said at his trial that his "confession" was extracted from him by oppression and violence.

Lord Justice Rose said DPP decisions not to prosecute the officers in his case were perverse and flawed by a failure to give reasons. He accused Dame Barbara's department of not giving the "careful analysis" required to the ruling of a High Court judge who awarded Mr Treadaway, an armed robber, £50,000 compensation.

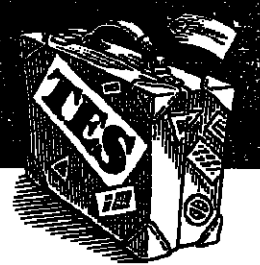
Lord Justice Rose said the CPS had breached its own test on whether there was enough evidence to prosecute the officers who allegedly tortured Mr Treadaway at Bromford Lane police station in Birmingham.

Although Dame Barbara took no part in the decisions on Mr Treadaway, yesterday's ruling further undermines her reputation and also that of the CPS.

It follows two cases last week in which she agreed to reconsider decisions not to prosecute police officers involved in incidents in which people had died in custody.

A spokeswoman for Dame Barbara said she had not been involved in the decision concerning Mr Treadaway and that she could not look at everyone of the 11,000 decisions a year taken by the CPS's central London division.

GET AWAY FROM
IT ALL WITH THIS
WEEK'S SUMMER
SCHOOL



Today's issue includes:

- Seven steps to scripting a soap opera
- The thrill of a day return to Geneva
- An American in London learning French. "Je suis pretty dam clever," she says
- David Blunkett revealing his addiction to thrillers
- Jon Snow on the realities of life as a school governor

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

SCHOOL'S OUT AND SO IS THE TES - EVERY FRIDAY

Leftwinger laughing through his teeth

This newspaper can categorically reduce rumours that Ronnie Campbell's teeth came out during his question on beer to industry ministers yesterday afternoon. It just looked like that.

In fact the Labour member for Blyth Valley was making a little joke. This likeable Geordie and former French polisher, described in Roth's *Parliamentary Profiles* as "unsophisticated, extrovert, fundamentalist left-wing local councillor-miner", is quoted as saying, "I am a radical and a fighter; just an ordinary leftwinger". A one-time supporter of Arthur Scargill, Campbell is pictured with "chubby face, reddened

when he shouts (often)". But none of this quite does justice to a noisy but good-natured and funny man, who lacks the sourness often associated with the Left.

The humour came through yesterday. His question answered — what action was Margaret Beckett taking "to ensure that... drinkers receive full life in public houses?" — he put a supplementary. New Labour, he told Madam Speaker, was, of course, "not against profit. But Campbell is about as new Labour as beer and skittles. He paused, then stuck his considerable fist into his even more considerable mouth.

That is what gave reporters the idea that Mr Campbell's teeth had come out, a rumour



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

that fast gained currency and was by sundown being recounted as fact.

But his teeth stayed in. Had he lost them he would not have been the first. Years ago, Anthony Beaumont-Dark, at that time the Tory MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, and now much missed at Westminster, was in mid-oration when — during a particularly emphatic denunciation of the Labour Party — his flying teeth lent his words an emphasis even Sir Anthony had not intended. With amazing skill (perhaps born of long

practice) the senior backbencher caught the teeth before they hit the carpet.

The near-disaster was captured on video and replayed in slow motion (with a white circle around the teeth) on *A Week in Politics*, which received a stiff complaint from the Commons authorities for misusing parliamentary video footage. The service is not for use in undermining the dignity of honourable members. Heaven forbid that this sketch should try to do that. So, as the Commons rises for a near three-month summer

recess, it is with affectionate respect that we bring you a final update on the amazing Norman Baker, Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes. This sketch, announcing that "a bore is born", noticed some time ago what a broad range of domestic and world affairs Mr Baker held opinions on, and how often he offered them in the Chamber.

I was acting on a hunch, after Baker's energetic 24 interventions during the Plant Varieties Bill. Political science can now back hunch with evidence. Research shows that, in the 55 days for which this new Parliament has sat, Mr Lewis has put down exactly 300 questions, 284 of which have received a written answer, 16 having

been answered on the floor of the House.

The official estimate for the cost to the public purse of answering a written question is £107. Oral questions are a snip at £249 each. A written answer yesterday from the Prime Minister to Jim Cunningham (Lab, Coventry) suggests that the cost of Mr Baker, so far — exclusive of salary and expenses — is £30,000. That is conservative. Some of Baker's questions have been missed, and the figure rounded down.

We wish Mr Baker a happy holiday and — may we dare hope? — a little rest. For the next session we award him an ancient post in our unwritten constitution: Gold Anorak-in-Waiting.

Blair sets tough code of conduct for ministers

Downing Street has tightened its control of Government in an effort to avoid 'sleaze', reports Valerie Elliott

TONY BLAIR yesterday published a tougher "catch-all" code of conduct for ministers in an effort to clean up politics, restore public trust and enshrine the primacy of No 10.

The iron grip that Mr Blair is wielding in Whitehall is confirmed officially in the guidance, which sets out strict rules on financial interests to avoid "sleaze".

Downing Street must approve all speeches, press releases and new initiatives, and their timing and presentation. Also, every interview and media appearance must be agreed with the No 10 press office.

Ministers may even have to write up the conversation of their lunches with journalists as every department has been instructed to keep a log of all media contacts. Mr Blair has also insisted on approving which duties are assigned to junior ministers.

The Prime Minister has made clear that any minister

who misleads Parliament must resign. In a foreword to the guidelines, last published in 1992, Mr Blair says: "In issuing this code, I should like to reaffirm my strong personal commitment to restoring the bond of trust between the British people and their Government. We are all here to serve and we must all serve honestly and in the interests of those who gave us our positions of trust."

Among other "dos and don'ts", ministers must not personally benefit from Air Miles accumulated in connection with official travel. However, the benefits may be used for official purposes or a minister may donate them to a charity named by the airline.

Ministers can now keep gifts up to the value of £140 — up from the previous maximum of £125 in line with inflation — but must inform their department's Permanent Secretary. Otherwise, no minister or civil servant, or mem-

ber of their family, can receive gifts, hospitality or services that may place them under an obligation.

No minister may sue for libel or launch any other legal action without first consulting the Government's law officers.

The code was implemented from the first day of the Labour Government, and Downing Street sources last night said that it would change nothing in relation to any minister, including Lord Simon of Highbury who has attracted controversy over his BP shareholding.

The code states implacably that ministers "must scrupulously avoid any danger of an actual or apparent conflict of interest between their ministerial position and their private financial interest".

In cases where ministers are brought into Government from industry, a profession or some other walk of life, the code says: "In order to avoid the danger of an actual or perceived conflict of interest, ministers should be guided in relation to their financial interest by the general principle that they should dispose of any financial interest giving rise to the actual or perceived conflict or take steps to prevent it."

Simon speaks out

Continued from page 1

over the last few days nobody had suggested that I have taken any decision which specifically benefited BP."

The job given to him was to help British industry compete more effectively. If he was doing his job well he would benefit BP as well as any other company in Britain. "I make no apology for that. But attempts to claim that such generic decisions represent a conflict of interest border on the absurd. It is the equivalent of saying that the social security ministers should stop trying to modernise the welfare state if they are in a pension scheme."

He also rejects the claim that he was avoiding tax because some of his shares were held in a Jersey trust. That was also untrue because BP held shares perfectly legally in a Jersey trust relating to its long-term performance plan. Individuals paid tax on the shares as soon as they were awarded. He had paid full income tax on all the shares held in the trust.

Lord Simon writes: "I understand the Opposition and the media have a duty to ensure that the high standards in public life to which this Government is committed are

being maintained. But the facts in my case do not support their charges and innuendoes."

The *Times* also learnt last night that the minister will receive a further tranche of BP shares in the Jersey offshore trust. The payout next year could exceed £300,000.

Mr Redwood accused the minister of missing a golden opportunity to sell the shares the day he assumed office, which was 48 hours after the company published its last quarterly figures. He said a further opportunity would be offered next week when the latest figures were listed.

Mr Redwood said: "I am surprised by the suggestion that there could be a problem with insider dealing. It is normal practice for directors and former directors to sell immediately after results are posted. Lord Simon should have sold on May 8, the day he took up his post, exactly two days after the figures were announced. It would have avoided the suggestion of a conflict of interest."

He repeated his demand that Lord Simon should disclose the shares, surrender his rights over the Jersey trust, or stand down as a minister. "They have to go," he said.

Leading article, page 17



Mark Dawson and son Alexander. He wanted child to continue family name

Mother wins battle to decide baby's surname

By Emma Wilkins

A WOMAN yesterday won the right to give her illegitimate child her own surname despite the objections of the father.

The Court of Appeal ruled in favour of Dawn Wearmouth, who registered her baby as Alexander Wearmouth and rejected the plea by her former boyfriend, Mark Dawson, that the child should bear his name. The ruling overturned a decision by Taunton County Court that it was in Alexander's "best interests" to bear his father's name.

Mrs Wearmouth, 35, from Taunton, Somerset, kept her married name after she divorced in 1993. Her relationship with Mr Dawson ended in April last year when Alexander, now aged 16 months, was less than a month old.

Mr Dawson argued that, although Alexander lived with his mother, he should take his name rather than that of a man to whom he was not related.

Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Thorpe said using the mother's name was a natural and logical choice which could not be criticised simply



Dawn Wearmouth: won right in Appeal Court

er their fathers wanted. Catriona Duthie, for Mr Dawson, had argued that "common sense" dictated that the surname of a child should be determined by its relationship with the biological father and not the mother's ex-husband.

Mrs Wearmouth said after the judgement: "I am extremely pleased with the outcome. I am delighted that there has been a result after 15 months of going to court, which has been very stressful."

"Both Mark Dawson and I can now concentrate on the primary concern which we both have which is the welfare of our child. His name is important but it is by no means the most important part of his life. All he is thinking about is his precious family name."

Mr Dawson, 34, a quality control manager, said he might take his legal battle to the House of Lords. "I am upset and extremely disappointed by the decision. Alex would have been the only child to carry my family name into the next generation. I am an only son and I come from a long line of only sons. My parents are very disappointed. We take a great deal of pride in the family."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britons back Labour on economic policy

Gordon Brown, his Budget and the Government's economic policy have received overwhelming endorsement from the public in the latest MORI poll for *The Times* (Peter Riddell writes). More people believe the Budget will be good for the country as a whole than after any previous Budget for 20 years.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, indicates that 56 per cent think the Budget will be good for the country as a whole, and 20 per cent think it will be bad. However, 29 per cent think it will be good for them personally, while 37 per cent think it will be bad. A record 57 per cent think that, in the long term, this Government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy, while 34 per cent disagree.

Rail dispute on guards

The rail union RMT is to ballot 6,000 members at 20 train companies over industrial action in a dispute to protect the operating and safety roles of guards. Its general secretary, Jimmy Knapp, said that the Great Eastern Railway had managed to reduce the job to a few hours' training with its controversial plan to recruit commuters as part-time guards and that many firms had failed to give the level of assurance that the union was seeking.

Aberfan fund repaid

The Government agreed to repay £150,000 taken from the Aberfan Disaster Fund 36 years ago. The Wilson Government decided that the fund, set up after a waste tip at the Merthyr Vale Colliery collapsed, killing 116 children and 28 adults in 1966, should pay for removing the two remaining tips. Villagers have long campaigned for the return of the money, which was announced in a Commons written reply from Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary.

Inquest challenge fails

A High Court appeal to reopen the inquest into the death of the Brixton burglar suspect Wayne Douglas failed yesterday. His family challenged the directions to the jury of Sir Montague Levine, the South London Coroner, after which a verdict of accidental death was returned. Mr Justice Laws ruled that, although Sir Montague, who has since retired, had not properly directed the jury, it would still have reached the same verdict.

Tests for drug-drivers

The first survey of drug-driving in Britain is to be launched today by Strathclyde Police to find ways of improving roadside detection. Drivers will be stopped and asked questions and to perform writing, physical and memory exercises. No charges will be pressed. The survey is part of a programme involving two Strathclyde officers who were awarded £7,700 from the Home Office for research into improving training on drug-symptom recognition.

£300,000 libel award

A former Irish Minister was awarded £300,000 yesterday in a libel case against the *Sunday Independent*. It is the largest libel award ever granted in Ireland. The jury found that in 1992, Eamon Dwyer, a columnist, had accused Proinsias De Rosca, a former member of the IRA, of involvement in or toleration of serious crime. They also found that he had alleged that Mr De Rosca supported anti-Semitism and violent communist oppression.

Footballer on sex charge

The Bradford City footballer Peter Beagrie appeared before magistrates on Jersey yesterday charged with three offences of indecent assault, allegedly committed while he was a Manchester City player. The 31-year-old winger also faced charges of common assault and of being disorderly. Mr Beagrie denied all the charges, which are alleged to have happened in the early hours of February 25 in two bars on the island. The trial continues.

Deposit safe from pygmy

Speculation that the body of a pygmy was the cause of an unpleasant smell emanating from a bank safe deposit box was scotched yesterday. Staff at the NatWest branch in the City of London noticed the smell after a flood in May. However, a spokesman said they had been in touch with the owner who had assured them "there is no kind of dead body down there". She declined to disclose the identity of the owner, or the contents of the box.

Road protesters lose

Anti-road campaigners have failed in their final attempt at the Court of Appeal to stop the "missing link" in the Avon ring road being built. The case has cost the taxpayers tens of thousands of pounds. Andrew Nicholson and Barry McNeeney, who received legal aid, claimed that the multimillion-pound project would cost more in human and economic terms than it would bring in benefits to the people of Bristol.

R-reg car rush begins

New cars will leave showrooms at the rate of 30 a minute today as the motor industry cashes in on what could be its last August sales bonanza. The Government is expected within weeks to end the system which changes the prefix letter on number plates and opt for a twice-yearly change in March and September. Sales of R-registration cars this month could reach 490,000, the second highest monthly total on record.

Leading article, page 17

Hovercraft

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Nick Nuttall and Tom Rhodes on a revolutionary approach to underwater exploration in Mediterranean

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Free care for elderly with £10,000 savings

Joanna Bale on a test-case ruling against a council which said it could not afford help for a woman of 87

LOCAL authorities must pay for all the costs of elderly people in their care whose capital has fallen below £10,000, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, ruled yesterday. The decision was a victory for the charities Help the Aged and Age Concern, which brought a test case to the Court of Appeal.

The court heard that Salford Council on Merseyside had made 87-year-old woman Charlotte Blanchard pay for her own nursing home care until her savings dropped below £1,500 — the cost of a funeral. Lord Woolf and two other appeal judges overturned a

High Court decision which had allowed the authority to avoid paying for residential or nursing care for the elderly because of its limited resources.

Tessa Harding, a spokeswoman for Help the Aged, said: "This is a huge victory for older people throughout the country. Help the Aged believes it makes local authorities' responsibilities crystal clear and will stop other councils being tempted to follow Salford."

The decision has implications for

the 170,000 elderly in council-run homes throughout the country. A spokesman for Age Concern said that there were 60 similar cases in Salford alone.

The council will now repay Mrs Blanchard the £8,500 she had spent on her care from her own savings. Last night at Warren Park nursing home in Crosby, she said: "There should be something to help you when your money is getting low, otherwise what have you got? Nothing. I am pleased about the

ruling because it will help everybody who is in the same position as I am."

Lord Woolf, in his ruling, said that both sides in the action acknowledged it was a test case "of considerable significance for both elderly members of the community and local authorities". In the November Budget of 1995, the Government announced that when individuals' capital fell below £10,000, local authorities were legally obliged to step in and pay

for a person's care in a residential or nursing home. When capital was between £10,000 and £16,000, the authority paid part of the care.

Sandra Chalmers of Help the Aged, said: "What Mrs Blanchard has achieved is that thousands of others in residential or nursing homes and in a similar position to hers will not have to make payments. If their assets fall below £10,000, they will only have to pay a proportion of the cost of their care, and if they fall below £10,000

they will not have to pay anything. It is a very reassuring judgment for those going into care. People will be able to hang on to the last £10,000 of their savings."

Sally Greengross, director of Age Concern, welcomed the decision but said there were still problems that needed facing. "This judgment will offer some reassurance to families where local authorities were considering using Salford to refuse payment for people in nursing

homes. But there are still outstanding problems: cash-strapped local authorities could still find other ways of rationing."

"This judgment does nothing for people waiting to go into care from their own homes or hospitals. The Government must face up to the nation's responsibility to ensure that its citizens receive the care that they need at the end of their lives." Help the Aged is calling for an urgent Government review of community care funding to stop elderly people being forced to wait weeks or months for help because authorities do not have the money.

Former judge to lead inquiry into race murder

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AN INQUIRY led by a former High Court judge will investigate the role of police and lawyers in the Stephen Lawrence murder case. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, announced yesterday.

The four-strong investigation team will be chaired by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and will have similar powers to the wide-ranging inquiry by Lord Scarman into the Bristol riots in 1981. The inquiry will be able to subpoena witnesses and documents. Witnesses will be on oath and the inquiry could also fine or imprison anyone who refuses to co-operate.

The inquiry could question five white youths from south London who refused to give evidence to an inquest on the death earlier this year. Sir William will also have to decide whether hearings are carried out in public.

Sir William was appointed a judge in 1983 and has dealt with many judicial review cases. He is also 27th chief of the Macpherson clan and a former lieutenant-colonel of a territorial regiment of the SAS.

The other members of the inquiry team include the Rt Rev John Sentamu, the Bishop of Stepney; Tom Cook,

former deputy chief constable of West Yorkshire and a police expert on race relations, and Dr Richard Stone, chairman of the Jewish Council for Racial Equality.

The inquiry follows Mr Straw's promise to Stephen Lawrence's family earlier this year that he would take action over the case. The 18-year-old student was stabbed to death at a bus stop in Eltham, south London, in a race attack, in April 1993. No one has ever been convicted for the attack, which brought criticism of police ineptitude and inactivity by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Yesterday Mr Straw told the Commons that the inquiry would look at matters arising from the death "particularly to identify the lessons to be learnt for the investigation and prosecution of racially motivated crimes."

It will begin work this autumn after the Police Complaints Authority has completed its report in October on complaints made by the Lawrence family against the Metropolitan Police.

The report by the Police Complaints Authority will be published. Mr Straw told MPs: "I believe the establishment of

this inquiry... will allow the concerns of the Lawrence family and others to be fully addressed and will identify the lessons to be learnt from this tragic case which will be relevant to the future handling of racially-motivated crimes by the criminal justice system."

After the announcement of the inquiry, Neville Lawrence, father of the dead boy, told a press conference that the family were "happy with what we have got today. I am grateful to the Home Secretary for listening to what we have said and granting our wishes. I would like to see some of the people who killed my son behind bars."

Imran Khan, solicitor for the family, said Sir William was a well-respected judge. He said ideally he and the family would have wanted a judge who had some empathy with the black community because they could understand racism. But Mr Khan said he was not aware of any black High Court judges. A number of names had been put forward by the Lawrence family to the Home Office but Mr Straw told the family that despite his efforts it had not been possible to get any of them to serve.



Neville Lawrence, father of the murdered Stephen Lawrence, yesterday

MPs in a state over missed reading

By POLLY NEWTON

IT WAS one of the most unlikely bestsellers of 1995. *The State We're In*, an analysis by Will Hutton of economic and social issues affecting Britain, became the book to be seen with for anyone on the Left. Now, it seems, its success has spawned a whole new class of people in politics: those who feel guilty that they have not read it.

In a survey by Dillons of MPs' reading habits, *The State We're In* was named by more respondents than any other book when asked: "What's the book all your friends have been urging you to read but you haven't got round to yet?" Second in the "guilt" category was *Sophie's World*, a novel that tackles questions of philosophy in a style aimed ostensibly at children. Third was *Wild Swans*, a biographical (and very long) account of the lives of three Chinese women. Jeffrey Archer was the most overrated author, with runners-up including Salman Rushdie and Barbara Cartland. Joint winners in the best living author category were Margaret Atwood, Umberto Eco and Doris Lessing.

Queen to travel in leased helicopter

By MICHAEL EVANS

THE Queen and members of the Royal Family are to be given exclusive use of a leased helicopter as part of their travel arrangements to replace the two ageing RAF Wessex aircraft which are being taken out of service.

The most suitable helicopters for hire at present are all foreign — mostly American and French — and the most exclusive can be tailor-made to suit the customer. Wealthy Arabs have been known to ask for leather upholstery.

The lease of the royal helicopter will be paid for out of the newly formed royal travel budget, a block grant supplied by the Department of Transport for all the royal household's transport. It was set at £10.5 million for 1997-98.

The red Wessex helicopters, part of No 32 (The Royal) Squadron, based at RAF Northolt in west London, had been available for the use of other VIPs, such as Cabinet ministers. However, they were mostly used by the Royal Family. The annual cost of running the two helicopters is £3.5 million. Under the new arrangement, substantial savings are expected.

The Ministry of Defence is expected to seek bids from helicopter operators. The RAF will still fly the new aircraft, which will be registered as a military aircraft. The salary of the crew will also be paid out of the royal travel budget.

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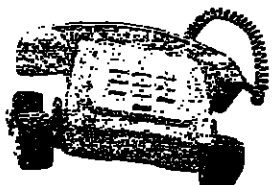
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The Avebury Four lose all their appeal

Michael Hornsby on a gang which may be going away for a long time

SIR LUDOVIC KENNEDY has been driven to reconsider his opposition to the death penalty by the antisocial conduct of four intruders in his Wiltshire garden. The offenders have even tempted the veteran campaigner against injustice to reach for a shotgun himself.

They are four peacocks who are popular among tourists visiting the historic village of Avebury but who have lost all their appeal among residents. The Avebury Four's crimes include destroying flower beds, pecking holes in cottage roofs and desecrating the cemetery. The parish council is now considering a sentence of banishment.

"The peacocks are a damned nuisance," Sir Ludovic, 78, said yesterday. "They come into the garden and eat our flowers and wild strawberries."

"There have been times when I felt like shooting them all, though of course one would never do such a thing."

Only yesterday morning, Sir Ludovic said, his wife, the former ballerina Moira Shearer, had to shoo three of the birds away. "We like to leave our gate open, but that means the peacocks can easily come in. In any case, they can fly over the gate because their wings have not been clipped."

The birds live at the 16th-century Avebury Manor, which is owned by the National Trust. Its area manager, David Riddle, said: "Clipping their wings would not stop them wandering off, but it would stop them roosting in trees where they can keep out of the way of foxes. They have always lived free and cannot be housed."



No more flying visits: villagers in historic Avebury may banish the birds, despite their popular appeal

The Trust says that it is very reluctant to remove the peacocks, but it has written to the parish council to say that it would be prepared to consider such a remedy "if the problems experienced have become intolerable".

That seems to be the case. Peggy Blake, the churchwarden, said: "The peacocks are undoubtedly beautiful birds, and the tourists like them, but they have become a nuisance. They pull the thatch out of cottage roofs and take flowers laid on gravesites."

Sir Ludovic's neighbour, Lady Julia Beale, said: "They are a terrible nuisance."

Gavin Topham, manager of Stones Restaurant in the village, added: "They are not very welcome here. We have a few flowerpots that stand just outside the restaurant and it got to the stage where the birds would devour the flowers almost straight after we'd planted them."

"We seem to have solved the problem now. We began running out and flapping our arms, shouting and chasing them off as soon as we spotted them re-appearing outside. The guests were sometimes a bit startled by this."

Avebury has a population of

just 630, but attracts thousands of visitors a year to its prehistoric stone circles, which rival Stonehenge in archaeological importance.

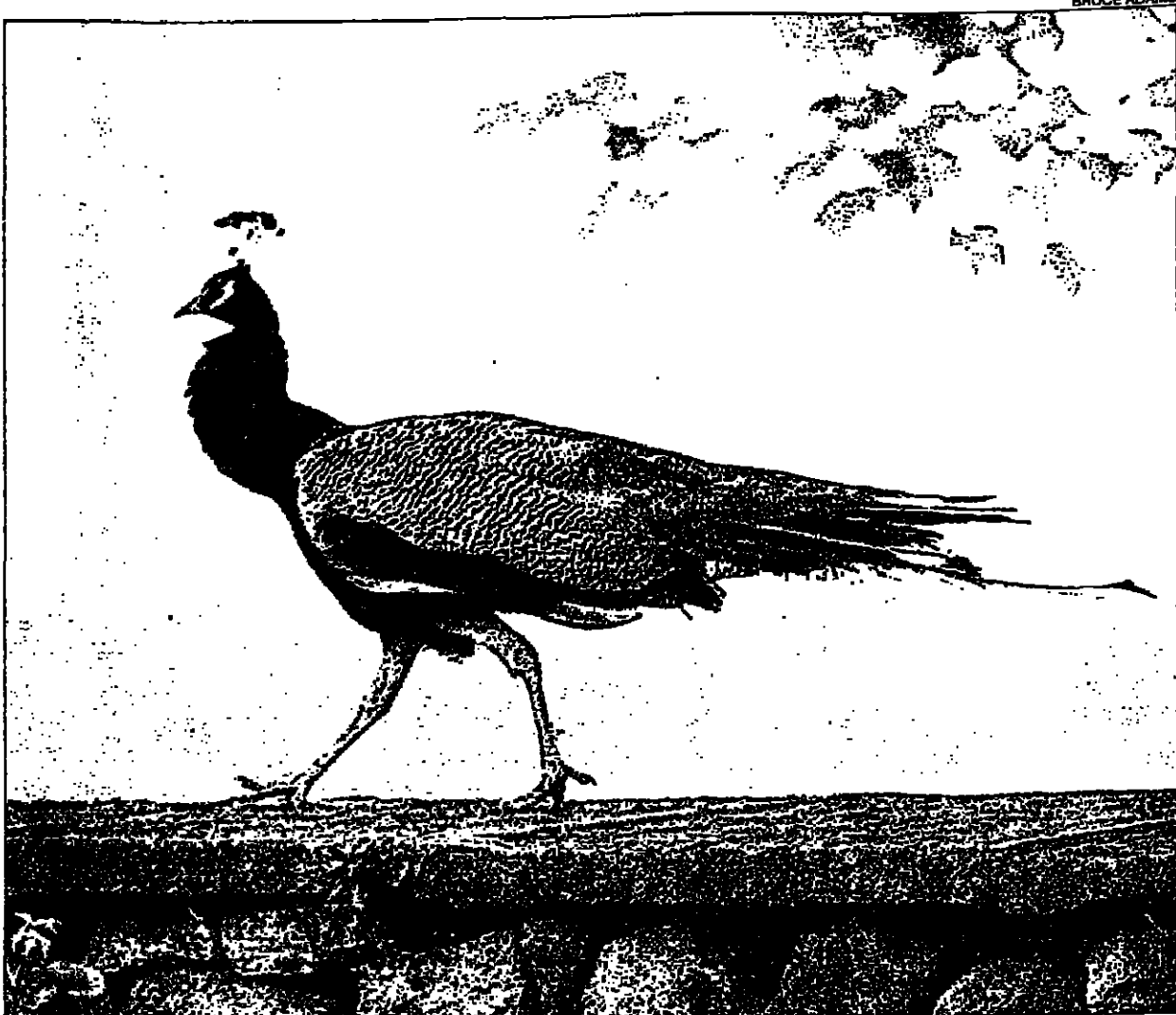
Many of the visitors go on to the gardens of the manor, where the peacocks have long been an attraction.

A spokesman for Wiltshire's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said: "Eating garden flowers isn't surprising behaviour. They'll eat a very wide range of foods."

"They are also quite a size, so their physically mowing through a gardener's flowerbeds is likely to result in substantial damage."

John Cronk, the council chairman, identified a further problem: "It is not just the damage to gardens. They are large birds, with a flying range of up to a quarter of a mile, and their droppings stink to high heaven."

"The Trust has offered to pay compensation for any damage caused if the peacocks are allowed to stay, but I think the view will be that the birds must go. This is not a new problem. Residents have been complaining about the peacocks for years. Visitors may like the birds, but if we are not careful there is a danger in a place like Avebury of having greater regard for the needs of tourists than for the people who actually live here."



One of the wild ones: the peacocks are accused of destroying flower beds and pecking holes in cottage roofs

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Hoots in the Lords at call for hit squad of eagle owls

By Robin Young

THE recent appearance of a rare eagle owl on the roof of St Paul's Cathedral prompted calls for an encore, and some hoots of laughter, in the House of Lords yesterday.

The former Conservative Scottish Secretary, Lord Campbell of Croy, urged that more owls should be set to work on getting rid of pigeons and grey squirrels. Lord Campbell suggested that ministers should "encourage experiments" in selected areas and said that the St Paul's owl had done "a very good job in killing hordes of pigeons".

This, he added, was despite the fact that the owl, which has since died of a bacterial infection, was an "alien and an escaped prisoner". He said there would be no risk to red squirrels, a threatened and protected species, as they did not live in the same areas as greys.

"So it would not matter if the owl were colour blind," he added cheerily. He saw a further advantage in that he had heard that eagle owls attacked small dogs. That would discourage dog ownership in selected areas and help to keep pavements clean.

Before his imagination took further flight, Baroness Hayman, a junior Environment Minister, told him: "Encouraging the use of non-native species for vermin control would be inappropriate because of the risk of escape into the wider environment." She added that the last confirmed sighting of a wild

eagle owl, "known as the rotweiler of the avian world", in Britain had been in 1883 in Argyll. Lord Gainford, a Conservative, said that the owl's return to that area could help to get rid of hooded crows.

The minister said that using birds of prey to scare pigeons in some urban areas was allowed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, but it was hard to stop them eating red squirrels, domestic pets, racing pigeons and grouse.

Lady Hayman then said that the Government was backing research into making grey squirrels sterile by vaccinating their food. Baroness Gardner of Parkes complained about squirrels eating apricots from a tree in her garden in central London. Lady Hayman suggested that she consult the two men from Newton Abbot, Devon, who had

reportedly scared off squirrels by hooting at night, each believing that the other was an owl. A spokesman for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday that all raptors were themselves under threat and pointed out that programmes to reintroduce species such as the eagle owl were "not a simple business". A spokesman said: "It requires years of patient work and dedicated application. Sometimes the casual introduction of predators has had uncontrollable and devastating consequences that were quite unforeseen."



The eagle owl

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Parents who go ga-ga are doing junior a favour

Baby talk makes sense in any language, say the scientists who listened with mother. Nigel Hawkes reports

THE urge that leads otherwise sensible people to talk apparent gibberish to babies was given an intellectual explanation yesterday. New parents who suddenly find themselves going ga-ga are in fact emphasising vowel sounds instinctively, to provide vital instructions about the building blocks of language.

Research by an international team found that the exaggerated, draw-out form of speech called "parentese" follows the same rules in English, Russian and Swedish.

It is not simply babble or affectionate endearments, but near-normal language, spoken slowly in sing-song style, with key sounds stretched out to make

comprehension easier. Hello becomes hel-looo, with a rising intonation at the end. Sometimes syllables are repeated for emphasis ("doggie-woggie") or words enriched by extra vowel sounds ("baa-lamb"). By the age of 20 weeks, the baby's own babbling contains the same vowel sounds.

The team from America, Sweden and Russia was led by the American neuroscientist Dr Patricia Kuhl, of the University of Washington in Seattle. Their results, published in *Science*, show that baby talk is characterised by over-articulation that exaggerates

sounds contained within words. Dr Kuhl says: "In normal, everyday speech, adults generally race along at a very fast pace. But we know it is easier to understand speakers when they stretch out sounds."

"That's why we tend to speak more slowly and carefully when we talk to strangers. We also do this unconsciously with babies, giving them an improved verbal signal they can capitalise on."

"When women across three different cultures, speaking three different languages, show the same pattern when speaking to

their infants, biology is telling us something about its necessity and value to their babies," she says.

The study examined mothers, but there was no reason to suppose that fathers behaved any differently — other studies had shown they also use parentese. Mothers spend more time with babies than fathers, so it made sense to study them. Ten women from each of the three countries were recorded talking to their babies, who were between two and five months old. The mothers were asked to talk normally and include target words containing

three vowel sounds common to all three languages: "ee", "ah" and "uu". The women were later recorded talking to adults.

The recordings were then analysed by spectrograph. The team found that in all three languages, mothers talking to their babies produced exaggerated versions of the vowel sounds, emphasising features that distinguished them from other vowel sounds. This was true of all 30 mothers across the three languages.

The exaggerated sounds allowed the mothers to produce a greater variety of vowel sounds

without overlapping other vowels. Dr Kuhl says. Parentese provides the babies with "essential nuggets" of information about language that their brains quickly absorb. After the babies start to use the same vowel sounds — pitched at a higher level because their vocal tracts are smaller — they become expert in reproducing the special sounds of their own native tongue and lose other skills which are not relevant.

Earlier work by other researchers has shown that Japanese babies can distinguish "l" from "r", but lose the knack because it is

not necessary in Japanese. The Kuhl team, which included researchers from the Early Intervention Institute in St Petersburg and from Stockholm University, conclude "Language input to infants has culturally universal characteristics designed to promote language learning."

Anybody handed a baby tends to use parentese, Dr Kuhl says. "Carers, younger brothers and sisters, and even college students who were handed a baby have been observed using parentese. Parents don't have to work hard at this. Just by talking and communicating with their infants, they are playing a vital role without being aware of it."

Mother's joy at baby born to make history

By Russell Jenkins

A MOTHER told yesterday of her joy at being able to cuddle the baby who made medical history and survived pioneering surgery for a life-threatening condition.

Vickie Harris cradled her son, Dylan, while he slept in his Winnie the Pooh romper suit as she spoke of her delight at the new medical techniques which had enabled doctors to save him.

Dylan was just three days old when Paul May, a consultant neurosurgeon at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, cut open a flap in his head to relieve life-threatening pressure from a blood clot developing between his brain and skull.

Dylan's diagnosis, made at 30 weeks while in the womb, was the earliest made for the condition. He now has every chance of growing up to lead a normal life.

Mrs Harris, 28, a chef from Cloughton, near Birkenhead, who lost her first child in a miscarriage 20 months ago, said: "We did not care if he was brain-damaged, paralysed down one side. We just wanted him to live so much."

"When I first saw him after the operation, he was in an incubator and I couldn't hold him. I was able to put my hand in and touch him. It was



A scan of Dylan in the womb, which showed up the blood clot in the skull which could have killed him

a brilliant feeling. I think he is a miracle, a little fighter. He has just never given up on life all the way through. There were some days when we were ready to give up but he would never let us."

Her husband, David, 29, added: "We were told by Mr May that he might not come through the operation. We had that to worry about. We were made up when he did. It was a miracle."

Dylan, now six weeks old and weighing 6lb 14oz, is fit and well, feeding and sleeping normally, and has passed his first hearing and mobility tests. Ross Welch, consultant obstetrician at Arrowe Park Hospital, Upton, Birkenhead, is guarded about the baby's future but the early signs are

good in a condition that once led to an early death or left the victim hopelessly disabled.

Dylan's condition was spotted when a routine ultrasound scan showed the signs of a blood clot so rare that there have been only a handful of cases, mostly in the South Pacific region. "We were devastated," said Mrs Harris.

"I first thought, 'Why me? Why is he picking on me, especially after the last pregnancy?' The surgeons were totally honest with us and warned us he could be paralysed. At 30 weeks I had felt his heart beat. So long as he was alive."

Mr Harris said that the couple could have coped with any disability; all that mattered was that their child

was born alive. "We could not have coped with losing him," he said.

There has been only one documented case of such a condition being identified in the womb, much later, to a couple with haemophilic tendencies, said Mr Welch. "This is the first antenatal diagnosis in a low-risk case," he said.

Both surgeon and obstetrician were able to confirm the diagnosis against the graphic results of an MRI scan (magnetic resonance imaging). It showed that Dylan's head was much larger than normal due to the bleeding. The baby was delivered by Caesarean section at 34 weeks to prevent further brain damage.

Dylan's birth went smoothly but his haemoglobin count was dangerously low and his head abnormally large. Mr May said: "I cut a window to the brain out of the skull."

"At that age the skull is so thin you can cut it with a pair of scissors. I opened up a small area three or four centimetres square, opened up and removed the blood clot, taking the pressure off the skull."

"It is very difficult in a case like this, where there is so much development and so much life ahead of Dylan, to be exactly sure what his future will be. At this stage he is a normal baby."



David and Vickie Harris hug their baby, Dylan. Pioneering surgery saved him

Leukaemia death rate higher near atomic sites

By Ian Murray

DEATHS from childhood leukaemia are higher than expected in areas around landlocked nuclear sites, researchers have discovered.

The study, published in a letter today in the *British Medical Journal*, covered areas of Oxfordshire and Berkshire around the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell and the Royal Ordnance factory at Burghfield.

The letter, from Chris Busby of the environmental group Green Audit (Wales), says radioactive gases and effluent legally released into the air and the Thames and Kennet have become concentrated in the river valleys where south Oxfordshire and Newbury lie.

Dr Busby says figures from the Office for National Statistics show that leukaemia deaths were roughly double the expected average. In south Oxfordshire 12 children died in the 15 years from 1981 to 1995 instead of a predicted five and in Newbury there were 11 deaths rather than six.

CORRECTIONS

□ Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy's criticism of bad practice among estate agents was not (contrary to a report, July 25) directed at members of the National Association of Estate Agents, of which he is chief executive.

□ The Captain Pugwash deal (report, June 25) is between John Cary Films (not John Ryan) and the Britt Allcroft Company, and its likely production cost is £1.5 million. Britt Allcroft does not own Thomas the Tank Engine.

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|-------------|---------|-------|
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| £50,000+ | 6.75 | 5.40 |
| £25,000+ | 6.60 | 5.28 |
| £10,000+ | 6.30 | 5.04 |
| £5,000+ | 5.95 | 4.76 |

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|----------------------|---------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | Gross % | Net % | Gross % | Net % |
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| £25,000+ | 5.30 | 4.24 | 5.20 | 4.16 |
| £10,000+ | 4.90 | 3.92 | 4.81 | 3.85 |
| £5,000+ | 4.70 | 3.76 | 4.62 | 3.70 |
| £1+ | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.50 | 0.40 |

| Asset Management Service Investment Account | Gross % | Net % |
|---|---------|-------|
| | | |
| £100,000+ | 6.22 | 4.98 |
| £50,000+ | 5.84 | 4.67 |
| £25,000+ | 5.51 | 4.41 |
| £10,000+ | 5.13 | 4.10 |
| Below £10,000 | 3.35 | 2.65 |

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Lord Simon bound by the law, the City and ministerial rules

THE share dealings of Lord Simon of Highbury are bound by the rules of both the City and Whitehall as well as being subject, like all share trading, to criminal law.

As the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, the former BP chairman must follow a code of conduct aimed at preventing actual or potential conflicts of interest between his role in Government and his status as a share owner. That bars him from taking part in government decisions that could affect the price of his shares in BP or any other company.

Lord Simon, who gave up his £241,000 salary to become an unpaid member of the Government, was prompted by the Ministerial Code to put his non-BP shareholdings into a blind trust, over which he has no control. It also led to his decision not to sell or deal in any BP shares until January at the earliest. By then, the reasoning goes, he will have been away from the company for long enough to be unaware of its detailed plans and any impact that government action might have on them.

The Permanent Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry and Sir Robin Butler, head of the Civil Service, agreed that this arrangement conformed to the guidelines. When it is reviewed in January, Lord Simon could opt to put the BP shares over which he already has

Polly Newton and Sarah Cunningham
on the difficult switch from business to government office

control in a blind trust. Alternatively he could ask permission from the Permanent Secretary and Sir Robin to sell some shares.

Lord Simon's predicament has been made more awkward by a strong rise in the BP share price that has increased the value of his shareholding by more than £200,000 since he reached the agreement over what to do with it in May.

A significant proportion of his shares are being held for him by BP in a Jersey-based trust under the company's long-term performance plan, which rewards directors with shares if the company meets certain targets.

He will not be able to deal in any of those until the first tranche is released in May next year. If he then sells them he will have to pay taxes on them at British rates.

Lord Simon has a total of 247,091 shares in BP, at present worth about £2.06 million, including those in

being held for him in the Jersey trust. When he was chairman of BP, his activities were covered by the Stock Exchange's "Yellow Book", which says that directors cannot sell or trade their company shares in the gap between the end of one trading period and publication of the company's results for that period.

Now that he is no longer a director of the company, he is treated by the City like any other shareholder, except that — according to the DTI — if he sells his holding, he is at greater risk of breaking the law on insider trading, as enshrined in the 1993 Criminal Justice Act.

A spokesman for the department said yesterday that Lord Simon's particular areas of responsibility had been allocated in accordance with the Ministerial Code. He is the UK's representative on the European Union's Internal Market Council, which considers all issues relating to the single market. When the UK takes over the presidency of the European Commission next year, he will become chairman of the council.

The DTI spokesman said: "Issues that will relate to BP will not come up at the Internal Market Council. If there is a conflict of interest — if BP is going to be on the agenda — he will not go."

"He is dealing with issues that are not likely to affect BP, but where they do, or where they might, he will



not participate. We could not be clearer."

Lord Simon is also a member of the Foreign Office task force on preparing the UK for the presidency of the European Commission. He chairs the Department of Trade and Industry's competitiveness task force, and sits on the Cabinet sub-committees on Europe and on economic affairs.

He is not the first shareholder to face a potential conflict of interest by entering the DTI. When Michael Heseltine was in Government, his shares in Haymarket Publishing were put into a blind trust.

The Tories argue that the two situations were not comparable. A Tory spokesman said yesterday: "There is a difference between a book publishing house in a highly competitive market, where he was not the minister for book publishing, and a market that is regulated by the DTI... BP is a creature of Government."

He said the same argument applied to former Trade and Industry Secretary Paul Channon, who had a major shareholding in Guinness.

Lord Simon, page 16
Leading article, page 17

The Tories are ignoring the main concern

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Goodbye Cabinet government. Welcome the Blair presidency.

The Ministerial Code — the new and expanded version of *Questions of Procedure for Ministers* — is the most revolutionary publication produced by the Government since the election. It sets out in a formal code of conduct, to be obeyed by all ministers, the biggest centralisation of power seen in Whitehall in peacetime.

All the familiar textbooks about the Cabinet system will have to be rewritten. The idea that heads of department have an independent standing has been torn up. The Ministerial Code is a remarkably frank document.

The section on "Ministers and the Presentation of Policy" has been totally rewritten. In the previous version, there is merely a reference to the organisation of a press conference. Now, this has been supplemented by a section on co-ordination of government policy.

This states bluntly that "in order to ensure the effective presentation of government policy, all major interviews and media appearances, both print and broadcast, should be agreed with the No 10 Press Office before any commitments are entered into. The policy content of all major speeches, press releases, and new policy initiatives should be cleared in good time with the No 10 Private Office: the timing and form of announcements should be cleared with the No 10 Press Office. Each department should keep a record of media contacts by both ministers and officials."

Co-ordination of government strategy and its implementation is desirable, indeed overdue — fully justifying Peter Mandelson's ministerial role, as well as his personal role as prime ministerial confidant. Similarly, co-ordinating announcements via the Downing Street Press Office to prevent clashes is sensible but this paragraph borders on obsessive, and unacceptable, centralised control. Either a Prime Minister trusts those whom he appoints to min-

isterial office, or he does not.

Downing Street officials were last night unapologetic about the change. "It is the strategic and message discipline we operated in Opposition as translated to Government." But Government is different from Opposition, both constitutionally and politically. So much for Cabinet ministers being independent heads of departments with their own responsibilities. Now they have to check in with Downing Street if they want to talk to the press, and they have to put on record even having a quiet drink with a journalist.

Moreover, such centralisation will, in practice, be impossible to sustain. If Government is to work, ministers have to be allowed to get on with their allotted responsibilities without all the time having to check in with Downing Street. No Prime Minister's Office can, or should, micro-manage the activities of nearly one hundred ministers. The new code reinforces the centralised practice of the new Government, though this is combined with Tony Blair's personal preference for focusing on a few important issues. There is often little collective discussion by the Cabinet, even of major political matters.

These questions are far more important than the current obsessive interest in the shareholdings of Lord Simon of Highbury, the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe. His defence in *The Times* today is powerful and convincing. The main result will be to make successful businessmen even more sceptical of politicians. Instead of engaging in the type of populist scandal chasing of which they often accused Labour, the Tories should be concentrating on the constitutional upheaval in Whitehall, and the creation of the Blair presidency.

PETER RIDDELL

BP shareholding set to increase by 40,000

BY ANDREW PIERCE

LORD SIMON stands to receive a further tranche of up to 40,000 BP shares in an offshore trust worth up to £330,000 next year.

The revelation will fuel the political row over the executive share scheme managed by a Jersey-based trust. The final number of shares paid into the trust, which will depend on the company's performance this year, will not be known until the next annual report.

But BP confirmed last night it could be as high as 40,000 shares, which are trading at £8.37 at yesterday's prices. Last year the trust acquired 5874,000 of the £2.15 million BP shares he retained when he resigned as chairman.

The controversy has cast doubts over the surprise appointment of Lord Simon to the Government, which was hailed as a coup for Tony Blair, emphasising Labour's new relationship with the business community.

The unpaid ministerial job for Lord Simon was confirmed on May 8 one week after the election. But the Tories, who were seething that such a high-powered figure as the former managing director and chairman of BP could join a Labour Government, were given a chance to exact their revenge two months later.

They pounced on July 8 when it was disclosed that Lord Simon had not disclosed his £2.15 million of BP shares in the Lords register of inter-

ests. While he was perfectly within his rights not to do so was seen as a tactical blunder.

The Tories had to look only as far as the BP annual report to see the words of Lord Simon, who declared as chairman of BP he had inside knowledge of the company's trade performance during the first five weeks of the second quarter of the year. Lord Simon decided not to trade the shares and he will review his position on January 1.

But this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Tories, who finally had a release for their pent-up fury after months of battering from Labour on charges of sleaze. John Redwood, trade and industry spokesman, referred it to the Cabinet Office. The following day Sir Robin Butler, the

dispose of his shares in BP because he would have laid himself open to charges of insider dealing. Whitehall officials argued that because of his position as chairman of BP he had inside knowledge of the company's trade performance during the first five weeks of the second quarter of the year. Lord Simon decided not to trade the shares and he will review his position on January 1.

But this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Tories, who finally had a release for their pent-up fury after months of battering from Labour on charges of sleaze. John Redwood, trade and industry spokesman, referred it to the Cabinet Office. The following day Sir Robin Butler, the

Cabinet Secretary, cleared Lord Simon of any breach of ministerial rules.

But the difficulties deepened for Lord Simon when *The Times* disclosed on July 12 that he had acquired almost £1 million of his holding through an offshore trust fund. By buying and acquiring shares through the Jersey trust in 1996 BP will potentially offset capital gains tax if the shares have risen in value when they pass to him at the end of the executive reward scheme.

On July 15 it emerged that Lord Simon, whose brief excludes matters which can relate to BP, had answered written questions in the House of Lords on the chemical industry the previous month. The Tories revealed on July

18 that Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, had written to Mr Redwood on July 5 to confirm that Lord Simon had put his non-BP investments in a blind trust. But Mrs Beckett was misinformed. The trust was not yet in place when she wrote the letter.

The DTI confirmed on July 19 that Lord Simon had signed a memorandum approving a European action plan which included gas liberalisation and a common tax regime for energy production. The Tories argued that both subjects impinged on BP.

There was further embarrassment at the weekend when it was shown that the value of the holding had risen by more than £225,000.

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'You injected your lover with death'

Judge sentences Cypriot fisherman who gave Briton Aids to 15 months in jail, reports Michael Theodoulou

A CYPRIOT fisherman who is dying of Aids was jailed for 15 months yesterday for knowingly infecting a British divorcee, Janette Pink, with HIV. Pavlos Georgiou, 40, looked stunned at the severity of the sentence as lawyers had predicted that he would receive a suspended sentence. He had planned a party last night to celebrate the end of his trial.

Georgiou swayed on his feet in the dock as Judge Antonios Liasos told him that he had not only failed to tell his lover he had Aids but also "avoided all protection, injecting her with death for months on end". He started in disbelief at the judge as was told he had escaped the maximum two-year sentence only because he had to care for four children, including a son aged four who is infected with the virus, and "because you have only a short time to live".

For the first time since his trial began three months ago, Georgiou, 40, showed emotion as he called out to his twin brother, Petros, while three armed policemen bundled him out of the courtroom in Larnaca. He reached out to embrace his brother and said:



Pink: relieved that the court case is over

"Look after my children. Petros Georgiou's mother is caring for them."

The judge had complained that the 50-year-old law introduced to the island by the British to stop the spread of cholera needed stiffer penalties "to protect the public which is at risk from this terrible disease". The judge said: "I would have expected of him, knowing his condition, that he would have taken all the precautions when having sex. His negligence led another person to death."

"Cyprus society must be protected, seeing that so many tourists come to the island." Georgiou had bragged about his string of romances even while his wife, Martha, who also had Aids, was dying, and he was having a relationship with Mrs Pink, who had left her two teenage children in 1994 to begin a new life in the resort of Ayia Napa after her marriage to an accountant had broken down.

Mrs Pink, who said she did not want to be in Cyprus to see Georgiou sentenced, said yesterday: "This will hopefully make Paul [Pavlos] realise what he has done and stop him from doing it again. He just did not care that he might make me sick, or make me die, and he has never shown any remorse. I'm relieved that this is all finally over."

Georgiou's brother said yesterday: "We have no hard feelings towards Janette. We never said any bad things about Janette. My whole family still have good feelings for her but we are surprised this case ever came to court."

He said his brother and Janette "stayed together happily for two years even after she was diagnosed as HIV-positive in October 1994".

In Cyprus there is concern over how the island's only jail, which has no facilities to deal with Aids patients, will cope with Georgiou. Legal authorities say he is likely to serve no more than eight months, but he might have to be kept in virtual solitary confinement during that time. He is considering an appeal.

Evis Baghdadi, a local Aids specialist, who treated Georgiou and Mrs Pink, said: "Our



Pavlos Georgiou, right, leaving court with his lawyer, Tassos Economou, and twin Petros. He asked his brother to care for his children

Charities fear prosecutions would undo years of health education

By DANIEL MCGRODY

AIDS charities criticised the decision to jail Pavlos Georgiou and said they did not want British courts to adopt similar punishments. Janette Pink, backed by her local Tory MP, Sir Teddy Taylor, has urged a change in the law to make similar prosecutions possible.

Derek Boddell, director of the National Aids Trust, said: "What purpose does this sentence serve? In the end Georgiou is being punished for not disclosing his HIV status. People who are going through the trauma of diag-

nosis and developing Aids are often concerned that people will not love them if they tell them about their illness."

"What Georgiou is guilty of is falling into that misery we have created as a society. Yes, he has behaved badly, but we are trying to introduce laws into what is a very complex set of human relationships."

Mr Boddell added: "It is very dangerous if we try to introduce similar laws to those in Cyprus. People will feel they cannot disclose their HIV status or will not even want to know their status because ignorance will be

bliss. All the work we have done to bring Aids and HIV out into the open will be halted."

Ceri Hutton, of the UK Forum on HIV and Human Rights, said: "There are moves to prosecute under the Offences Against the Person Act, where you can cause wilful harm. But it would be difficult to frame such an application in the law to deal with Aids and would be even harder to prove in court as it would be one person's word against another."

Nick Partridge, chief executive of the Terrence Higgins Trust, said: "The judge

wanted to use this case as a deterrent to others. However, it will also deter people from seeking testing for HIV."

"This will cause more difficulties in fighting the spread of Aids in Cyprus. We need to consider the implications carefully and see what lessons there are for us in Britain."

Susie Parsons, chief executive of the London Light-house Project, said: "We do not support any attempt to create a specific offence of transmitting HIV. The key issue is to prevent the spread of HIV and Aids and that won't happen by criminalising it."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl with ME loses legal fight

A county council which reduced the hours of home tuition provided to a teenager with ME was backed by the Court of Appeal yesterday. The court overturned a High Court ruling that East Sussex County Council had acted unlawfully in the case of Beth Tandy, 15, of Lewes.

The council argued that it had had no choice after a £3 million shortfall in the local education budget. Miss Tandy was given leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Walker dead

The body of a missing walker, Elizabeth Fisher, 48, from London, was recovered from the River Elchag in the Highlands, five miles from Ratanag, where she had been staying.

Silent line

A telephone line set up in Belper, Derbyshire, for the public to report vandals was closed down after receiving no calls in four years. The scheme, backed by the council and police, offered rewards up to £100.

Litter of law

A street-sweeper is threatening to sue Worcester City Council after his cleaning machine went out of control and ran him over. Ivor Bishop, 48, of Worcester, was taken to hospital with cuts.

Inside track

Police in Bedford spent six hours hunting a stolen BMW equipped with a tracker - before finding the device in the grounds of their police station. The thief had spotted it and discarded it.

Brief lunch

The case of the missing sandwiches was solved by an appeal over the Tannoy at the Old Bailey. A barrister was reunited with his cheese and pickle by the detective who mistook them for his ham and tomato.

Solicitors agree property shop deal

By FRANCES GIBBS

ONE-STOP property shops offering a package of estate agency, conveyancing and financial services could be in business by the end of this year.

More than 100 solicitors have signed up with a company called the Solicitors' Property Centre to offer a franchised network of property shops in England

and Wales. The move comes after a Law Society council decision earlier this month to relax the conveyancing rules and allow solicitors who run estate agencies to act for either the buyer or seller, or give financial advice to the buyer.

Hampshire Countywide is already planning to offer conveyancing through its estate agency arm. Under the scheme agreed yesterday, groups of solicitors

would be able to own and operate a property shop and take a share of its profits. A duty solicitor would be available for conveyancing help, but buyers or sellers would be referred to local participating solicitors for any legal work.

Technology will allow access to lists of available properties, the Land Registry, local authorities and lending institutions, and updates on transactions.

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Abduction woman is charged

By JOANNA BAILE

THE housewife accused of eloping to Florida with a boy aged 14 was yesterday charged with abduction and indecent assault.

Tracey Whalin, 33, of Bilborough, Nottingham, appeared before the city's magistrates accused of indecently assaulting a boy under 16 between April 1, 1996, and July 15, 1997. A further charge alleged that she took a child aged under 16 from the lawful control of his guardian on July 14. She was granted conditional bail. The maximum sentence for indecent assault is



Bail: Whalin yesterday

ten years and for child abduction seven years. Mrs Whalin, who was brought back from Florida on Wednesday, spoke once during the short hearing, to confirm her details.

Mrs Whalin, whose bail application was not opposed by the prosecution, must live in a hostel. The boy cannot be identified for legal reasons.

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Britain moves higher in bribery league

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

BRITAIN is seen as more corrupt than seven other European Union countries, including Germany, according to an authoritative annual league table released yesterday by the Berlin-based Transparency International group.

The rankings, analysing business managers' responses to corruption round the world, often shake up countries at the bottom end of the table. Anger over Pakistan's rating as second worst in the world contributed to the overthrow of

the Government of Benazir Bhutto. Nigeria which this year, as in previous years, is seen as the most corrupt of 52 surveyed countries, has been particularly loud in condemning the "poll of polls".

Transparency International is a private group, set up in 1993 to combat corruption, and bases its information on seven international surveys of business people, political analysts and the public.

The cleanest countries this year were Denmark, Finland and Sweden, which topped New Zealand from the top position. Britain came relatively low, in 14th position, its

image apparently dented by stories of sleaze. Significantly, it was overtaken by Germany, although the Germans still give broad latitude to companies which hand out bribes to foreign contractors.

Germany has been under pressure, especially from the United States, to plug legal loopholes which allow German businessmen to write off bribes abroad against tax. Yet both Britain, and even the United States, which has strict legal barriers against international bribery, lag behind the Germans. In part, this is probably because of the nature of the survey, which does

not track such areas as company-to-company bribery.

The most corrupt countries this year are regarded as Nigeria, followed by Bolivia, Colombia and Russia. Pakistan has improved its position, earning only one out of ten for honesty last year but 2.53 in 1997. The chairman of Transparency International, Peter Eigen, issued a warning against focusing on Third World corruption.

"Corruption is perceived to be greatest there, but I urge the public to recognise that a large share of the corruption is the explicit product of multinational corporations, headquar-

tered in leading industrialised countries, using massive bribery and kickbacks to buy contracts in the developing world and the countries in transition." The Third World, in other words, would be less corrupt if developing states stopped offering bribes.

Indeed, the most revealing standings are buried deep in the table. Belgium, for example, is now regarded as more corrupt than Mediterranean nations such as Portugal, Spain and Greece. The Italians are seen as the most corrupt of the EU states in the survey, but the country has improved its score from last

year, advancing from 3.42 out of 10 to 5.03.

"Every day that the poor scores in the Corruption Perception Index are not being dealt with means more impoverishment, less education and less healthcare," said Dr Eigen. Money was diverted from development into over-priced contracts.

A study by Harvard associate professor Shang-Jin Wei found that a rise in corruption levels had the same effect on foreign investments as raising the marginal tax rate by more than 20 per cent. "Awareness is a first step to fighting or reducing corruption," he said.

BEST AND WORST FOR CORRUPTION

CLEANEST COUNTRIES (Marks out of ten)

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| 1 Denmark | 9.94 |
| 2 Finland | 9.48 |
| 3 Sweden | 9.35 |
| 4 New Zealand | 9.23 |
| 5 Canada | 9.10 |
| 6 The Netherlands | 9.03 |
| 7 Norway | 8.92 |
| 8 Australia | 8.85 |
| 9 Singapore | 8.65 |
| 10 Luxembourg | 8.61 |
| 11 Switzerland | 8.61 |
| 12 Ireland | 8.28 |
| 13 Germany | 8.23 |
| 14 Britain | 8.22 |

MOST CORRUPT

| | |
|----------------|------|
| 1 Nigeria | 1.76 |
| 2 Bolivia | 2.05 |
| 3 Colombia | 2.23 |
| 4 Russia | 2.27 |
| 5 Pakistan | 2.53 |
| 6 Mexico | 2.66 |
| 7 Indonesia | 2.72 |
| 8 India | 2.75 |
| 9 Venezuela | 2.77 |
| 10 Vietnam | 2.79 |
| 11 Argentina | 2.81 |
| 12 China | 2.88 |
| 13 Philippines | 3.05 |
| 14 Thailand | 3.06 |

Source: Transparency International

Ancestor worship cuts the cost of Pacific paradise

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ONE of the most celebrated paradise islands in the South Pacific, complete with 25 miles of beach and its own airstrip, will be bought at a knockdown price by the Government of French Polynesia after a long-running dispute over land rights.

Tupai atoll, a 2,500-acre ring of coral in the Tahiti archipelago, once used as a private holiday preserve by the likes of Brigitte Bardot and the Duke and Duchess of Kent, will be sold for just Fr34 million (£3.4 million), or roughly a fifth of the original auction starting price.

Maurice Lejeune, a French lawyer and millionaire who has owned the island for 30 years, was forced to sell by his main creditor, the Bank of Polynesia, when his business empire collapsed. The asking price dropped dramatically after several thousand Polynesian inhabitants from nearby

Bora Bora and Tahaa islands claimed that the atoll had not been legally purchased from their ancestors.

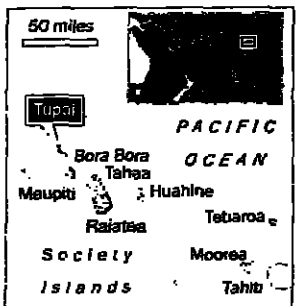
A Polynesian court will rule on the validity of those land claims in October. This week Polynesia's Cabinet agreed a plan to buy the island, but the decision must now be ratified by the Polynesian Assembly.

The Government intends to build a hotel complex on part of the island and turn much of the rest into a nature reserve for the endangered species that flourish there.

In 1990 a group of Japanese investors attempted to buy the island for an estimated £35 million to build a hotel-casino, but that plan also fell through when protesters argued that their ancestral land rights were being violated.

The island contains the ruins of several temples and plays an important role in the ancient Polynesian religion.

The Government's purchase of the island may turn out to be an even better bargain than it appears. According to local legend, a crew of Chilean pirates buried a fabulous hoard of looted Peruvian treasure somewhere on Tupai in 1822, and were then all killed without revealing its location. Numerous adventurers have tried, and so far failed, to find the buried treasure.



A young Brigitte Bardot on honeymoon in 1966 with Gunther Sachs, her third husband, strolls along the beach of Tupai atoll

Spy in sky watches Claudie the cow chew cud

BY BEN MACINTYRE

AS THEY graze the pastures of central France, two cows and a horse are being spied on by satellite in an unprecedented experiment to monitor how efficiently they keep down the undergrowth.

Computerised beacons have been strapped to the backs of Marguerite and Claudie, a pair of stout Charolais cows, and Garance, a mare, to enable the French National Institute of Agronomic Research (Inra) to monitor their every movement in the fields above Theix, in the Auvergne. The fields have become covered in brambles, bushes and weeds and the researchers hope the experiment will show whether livestock are better at clearing overgrown pasture than chemical weed-killers or machines.

The satellite monitoring system, usually used to keep track of ships, shows the location of the animals to within a few yards by sending a signal to the satellite Global Positioning System every five seconds.

This will allow us to see if cows and horses are complementary in their grazing habits," Didier Micol, a researcher at Inra, said. The results will also show what types of vegetation the herd may be eating.

The experiment is part of a broader project to reclaim agricultural land that has run to seed in the depopulated central regions of France.

The three satellite pioneers are part of a larger herd of 36 cows and 12 horses. The transmitters will be fastened to a different three members of the herd every three days.

In addition, all the cattle and horses are fitted with another monitor showing the position of their heads and thus whether they are grazing or just chewing the cud and watching the scenery.

The herd is expected to cover a distance of 1,000 miles of upland in the course of the experiment.

Doing the same job with human herdsmen would require at least 12 permanent and patient cattle-watchers and would produce far less accurate results.

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Floods set back East's EU entry timetable

BY ROGER BOYES

FLOODING in Central Europe has started to ease, allowing governments to count the cost of the July deluge. The Czech Republic and Poland now recognise that the damage could seriously set back their growth, spur inflation and hobble their progress to the European Union even before entry negotiations have begun.

The balance sheet presented by Prague gives some indication of the economic damage. Agriculture suffered worst - 190,000 animals drowned, 195 farms are under water, and losses are reckoned to be about £200 million. More than 2,000 apartments have been destroyed and whole factories and power stations crumbled into the torrent. The total damage will be about £1 billion, only a third of which is covered by insurance. The state will have to raise money, perhaps with special flood bonds and loans.

Poland was in a stronger economic position, but Karol Swarc, Deputy Finance Minister, cannot deny the seriousness of the setback. It has been a proud boast that Warsaw could meet all the Maastricht European economic and monetary union criteria this year, apart from inflation. Now the promise rings hollow. Mr Swarc admits: "As a result of the floods, the budget deficit will jump from 2.8 per cent to 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product." Growth would be slower than anticipated, more like 5 per cent than the predicted 5.5 per cent.

But the big concern is inflation. To cover the cost of reconstruction, Warsaw is trying to raise more than £500 million as well as borrowing \$300 million (£187 million) from the World Bank and taking on credits from Euro-

pean institutions. The cash will be used for repairs and also to rebuild and modernise Silesia's infrastructure.

Even so the new money will make it difficult to hold down inflation. Mr Swarc reckons on end-of-year inflation now reaching 13 per cent rather than 12 per cent, but even this may be unduly optimistic.

The Poles say the flood damage could amount to anything between \$2 and \$4 billion. Twenty out of 49 regions were affected, 470,000 hectares of arable land are under water. 86 towns have been paralysed by the floods

and 875 villages evacuated. More than 1,125 miles of road are still impassable.

There has been lasting damage, too, to Poland's cultural heritage. The floods swept through libraries and archives throughout Silesia, destroying literary treasures. The German authorities have sent drying technology to Poland: the restorers there are having to use blotting paper.

Brussels aid: The EU proposed £1m million relief aid for the German state of Brandenburg.

Letters, page 17

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Israelis swoop on suspected Islamic militants

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI security forces yesterday raided areas of the West Bank under their control to arrest suspected Islamic extremists after the suicide bombings in Jerusalem's market which left 15 people dead. Soldiers and police arrested dozens of Palestinians, including the relatives of the two men thought to have been the bombers.

The military wing of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The men, both in their twenties, came from a village near Hebron, on the West Bank. They had disappeared more than a year ago after being put on Israel's wanted list of suspected terrorists.

As well as arresting Hamas members, Israel has cut funding to the Palestinian Authority and imposed an indefinite closure on the West Bank and

Gaza Strip. An arrest warrant was also issued for Ghazi Jabali, the Palestinian police chief, for allegedly encouraging attacks on Jewish settlers. This was the latest stage in a dispute which began two weeks ago when Israeli troops arrested several Palestinian policemen who they said were about to open fire on a Jewish settlement near the West Bank town of Nablus.

The decision was announced as Israelis began burying the dead. Hospitals reported that 58 injured people remained in their care.

Palestinian officials described Israel's response as inflammatory. The officials claimed they had already begun their own operation against Muslim militants in the Gaza Strip and gave a warning to Israel against entering Palestinian self-rule areas to arrest suspects.



Relatives of Sami Malka, 44, a victim of Wednesday's bombing, mourn while an ultra-Orthodox Jew says a prayer at the site of the attack

David Bar-Ilan, an adviser to Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, defended the stand taken by the Cabinet. He said Israel reserved the right to take action because the Palestinian Authority was not doing the job itself. Mr Bar-Ilan cited the 1976 Entebbe raid, when Israel rescued hostages held by hijackers in Uganda, as a precedent. "The fight against terrorism is universal and the

Americans have decided that they will not accept any sovereignty when pursuing terrorists that have killed Americans. This is the way things must be done, if the governments in the countries where terrorists operate are not willing to do anything against them."

However, Jibril Rajoub, the Palestinian security chief, said Mr Netanyahu should not expect any mass arrests of

Hamas members by the Palestinian police. His officers would arrest only those genuinely suspected of criminal activity, he said.

He condemned the suicide bombings, but added that the Israeli Government must accept some of the blame because of its support for Jewish settlements and other acts of provocation against the Palestinians.

Mr Netanyahu told Dennis

Ross, the US special envoy, yesterday that Israel had fulfilled its commitments under the peace accords.

Washington: Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, returned for emergency meetings in Washington last night, demanding security guarantees from Yasser Arafat as the United States attempted to bring momentum to an otherwise hobbled Middle East peace process (Tom

Rhodes writes). Mrs Albright, who has not visited the Middle East since her appointment, found herself at the centre of criticism over lack of US involvement in a process mainly driven by Washington.

"We must not allow terror to succeed in its aim of killing our hope and our search for peace," she said. "But at the moment the focus of all those committed to peace must be squarely on security."

WORLD SUMMARY

Smuggled migrants marooned

Athens: Hundreds of mainly Kurdish illegal immigrants stranded on a ship that suffered a power failure in the Aegean Sea told Greek authorities yesterday that they paid \$2,000 (£1,234) each to be smuggled from Turkey to Italy.

Greek authorities said the Ukrainian-registered *Sokol* was carrying 303 illegal aliens, including 26 children and 30 babies. The three Ukrainian crew left the ship, apparently to fetch food, but never returned. (Reuters)

Holocaust plea

New York: Alfred Defago, the Swiss Ambassador to America, has written to a federal judge in Brooklyn urging him to throw out a class action lawsuit brought by Jewish organisations to force Swiss banks to surrender assets belonging to Holocaust victims (Junku Varadarajan writes). He said the suit would interfere with "voluntary" efforts in Switzerland to account for the funds. Hearings in the case began yesterday.

£2m damages

Hong Kong: Kristan Phillips, 47, an American pianist with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, who suffered damage to his brain and nervous system when he inhaled fumes from Diazinon, a pesticide, at the Academy for Performing Arts was awarded almost £2 million damages and £8 million costs. Viba-Geigy (Hong Kong) Limited must pay the biggest share.

Pot cropper

Los Angeles: Todd McCormick, 27, a marijuana millionaire, was jailed pending trial after police found more than 4,000 cannabis plants valued at £12.5 million in a raid on his castle (Giles Whittell writes). It was the biggest marijuana "bust" in the city's history, but activists said the drug was for medical use.

Jerusalem market vendors back at work in shadow of death

By ROSS DUNN

ISRAELI resilience was on display yesterday in the open market in Jerusalem. Less than 24 hours after two suicide bombers killed 13 Israelis in the Mahane Yehuda, stall owners resumed trading.

Although the patrons might not have been as numerous as before, many vendors were confident that sales would return to normal.

Still, the anger could not be

contained. One shopkeeper cried: "Where are we, where are we that this could happen?"

Another shouted: "What are the Palestinians doing here? We are the Palestinians, we have lived here for generations. What do they want from us? Let them go to Jordan, to Syria."

The early reopening of the market was due to the efforts of employees who worked through the night to clear away debris from the

blasts. However, not all the work was finished in time. Some shopowners could be seen still sorting through the shambles of their establishments, while electricians worked to reconnect power lines.

One vendor said he expected to be operating in about a week. He was receiving government support but questioned whether increased security would prevent more terrorist attacks. "I don't know if it will

help, because you know, they [the Palestinians] look like us," he said.

The security forces obviously felt they could make a difference. Hundreds of police and soldiers were stationed in and around the area, while government officials visited the site to assess the full extent of the damage. The officials walked along pedestrian lanes, crowded with customers and curious onlookers.

Among the visitors was Yaakov

Neeman, the Finance Minister, who said he was there to assess "the humanitarian problems of people who were injured, people who had suffered, businesses which have financial problems, people who have tremendous problems of survival".

He promised: "We will deal with it immediately."

Ramallah: The Palestinian Legislative Council yesterday gave Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Au-

thority President, one month to dissolve his Cabinet and appoint a new one after a corruption inquiry.

Legislators said the 88-member council voted 56-1 to urge Mr Arafat to appoint a new Cabinet with "qualified and experienced ministers" by September.

"We hope Arafat will respond to our resolution because the Cabinet must be changed," Ahmed Korei, the Speaker of the council, said. (Reuters)

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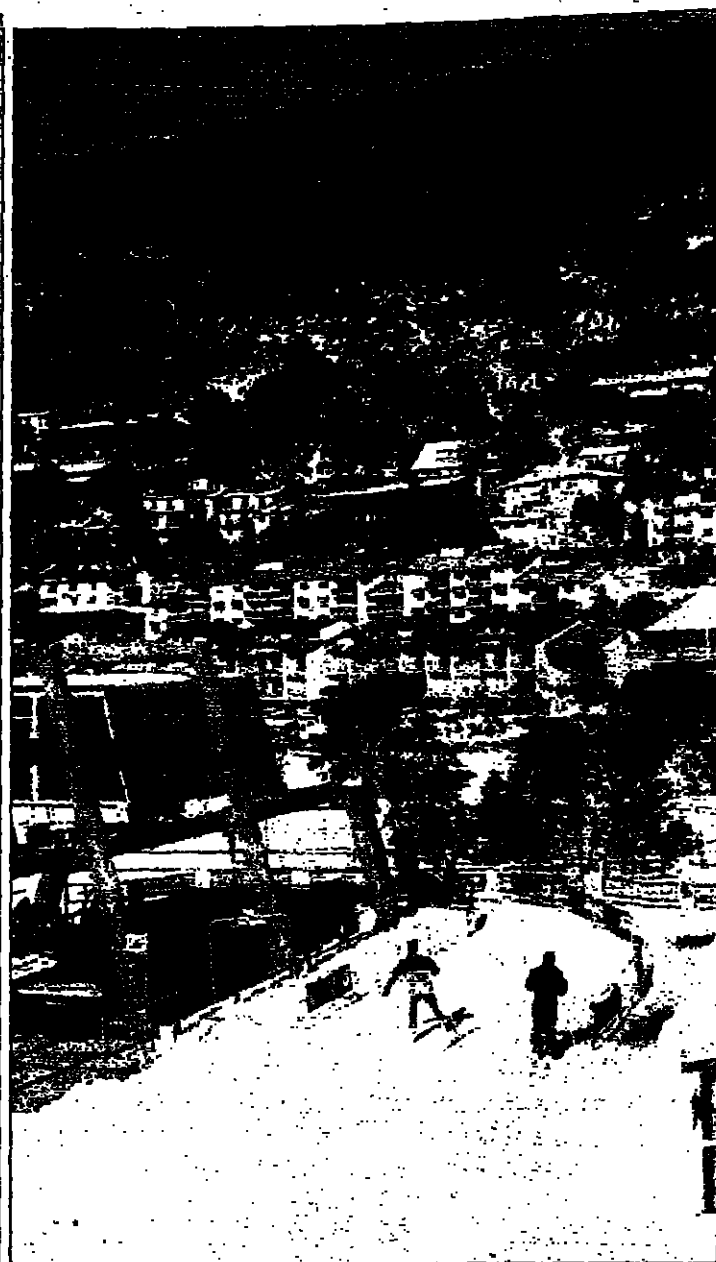
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Rescue workers sift through the remains of two ski lodges destroyed when a landslide hit the Snowy Mountain resort of Thredbo. Heat-seeking equipment has revealed no sign of life

Ski lodge rescue hopes fade Nature blamed for landslide

RESCUERS last night continued to dig with their hands through the freezing ruins of two Australian ski lodges hit by Wednesday's landslide.

Eleven men and eight women were still buried under tonnes of debris at the Thredbo resort, 250 miles southwest of Sydney. Heat-sensitive equipment showed no signs of life. One body has been recovered so far. It is believed to be that of a woman who had been out on a midnight stroll with her husband.

Glen Milne, an Australian television journalist holidaying at Thredbo, was sleeping in his lodge when the slide hit. "It struck like a tornado

Fears of triggering further landslides are hampering rescue work at the Thredbo resort where 19 people are still missing, writes Rachel Bridge in Sydney

hitting the building. We were a bit over a metre and a half away. You virtually stepped off the steps at the side of our lodge on to the rubble," he said.

Mr Milne said cries were heard beneath the debris. "We could hear three voices. We tried to form a human chain and pull the rubble out, but as we did the cars teetering on the edge of the concrete pans

were in danger of coming down on top of us."

Rescuers worked through the night in sub-zero temperatures under floodlights, delicately prising away rubble under the threat of further slides. Emergency teams were forced to wait 12 hours before they were allowed into the collapsed area.

Bruce Johnson, a police superintendent, said the

efforts were hampered by fears of further collapse. "It's like a pack of cards. If we move something, we have to be quite sure that something else isn't going to fall."

He added: "There are no signs of life at all, but we are hopeful. One has to be honest, the hope is diminishing."

He said the exercise, involving more than 200 rescuers working in 12-hour shifts, would take at least two days of "methodical work".

Ron Stiebel, a regular Thredbo skier, was undressing for bed and looking out of his window as the landslide ripped past. "It was just like someone was emptying a giant vacuum-cleaner bag," he

said. "It sounded like it was a jet fighter taking off, or an express train going past."

John Bouropolous, another witness, said: "I heard this big wind howling that lasted for a few seconds, then I saw the windows shake and then there was silence. Another couple of metres and we would have been history."

The landslide swept through the Carinya lodge, where one person was believed to be sleeping, and downhill onto the Birabadeen lodge, where 18 staff members were staying. Many of the resort employees were Americans. Among the victims are believed to be an American-born couple who are ski

instructors and the promotions manager of the resort.

Kerry Muller, a youth hostel manager who was among the first at the scene, said three of her best friends were inside one of the buried lodges, including the American ski instructor.

The landslide occurred just before midnight at a time when Thredbo, at an altitude of 4,494ft, was packed with thousands of Australian and foreign visitors. The resort sits on a ridge facing the snow-covered mountain range of the Kosciuszko National Park. Australia's ski season runs from June to October, but has started slowly this year as little snow has fallen.

SCIENTISTS have blamed nature, not man's interference, for the landslide in Thredbo (Rachel Bridge writes). Environmentalists had said over-development of the ski resort might be responsible.

Ian Plimer, a Melbourne University professor, said soil condition and natural subsidence was inevitable. "Steep alpine areas with thin soils and saturated soils are going to move," he said. "They've done it for thousands of years, and they'll continue to do it for thousands more."

Geologists believe an underground spring may have destabilised the mountain-side. Professor Russell Blong, of the Natural Hazards Research Centre, said that water was the "most likely cause." "Most landslides are caused by earthquakes or occur after heavy rainfalls. In this case, it is probably the result of subsurface water movement," he said.

The Kosciuszko National Park has been the scene of many landslides. Five years ago several townships in the area were isolated for a week when a mudslide cut off the access roads.

Another landslide in 1978 destroyed a section of the park's main highway.

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Kant thoughts on marital counselling

Shrinks suffer an anxiety crisis

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

SUFFERING from acute "shrink fatigue", New Yorkers are turning away from psychiatrists to a stylish new source of therapy: the "philosophical counsellor".

Bearing the message that Plato is better than Prozac, philosophers have taken on the lucrative burden of healing the city's angst. Someone going through a mid-life crisis, they argue, is not suffering from a pathology but a "crisis of values".

Led by Louis Marinoff, a professor of philosophy at New York's City College, the boom is causing shrinks to panic. Many are cutting their formidable fees to compete with those who spout Heidegger and Hobbes.

Speaking to the New York Observer, Professor Marinoff cited a recent case where he treated a woman who complained that her dead brother's spirit was troubling her. "Psychotherapists would say she is recreating the guilt triggered by her brother's death. But it may be possible, according to some philosophical systems, that there was something there. I am there to help the client understand her belief system."

Marital problems are another area where the philosophers believe they have an edge over the Freudian "couch men".

"We would have a talk about what is expected from one another in marriage, what the duties and rights are," he said.

In the new movement's "bible", *Essays on Philosophical Counselling*, the work of Immanuel Kant bobs up in the chapter on marital counselling; the gloomy Dane, Søren Kierkegaard, appears in the section on coping with death; and Socratic dialogues are portrayed as tools with which to handle drug addicts.

US ends reign of bankrupt capital's mayor

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE squabbling forces of the White House and Congress united against one man yesterday, reaching agreement on a far-reaching plan to strip power from Marion Barry, Washington's Mayor, and take charge of government in the beleaguered American capital for at least four years.

In an unprecedented proposal, attached to tax legislation fast reaching its final passage in Congress, a presidentially appointed financial board will provide the bankrupt city with billions of dollars and sharply restrict the limited self-government Washington achieved in its Home Rule Charter of 1973.

Mr Barry, who was re-elected for a fourth term three years ago, denounced the move as a return to the days when Washington was considered the last white colony in the United States. He said the White House and Congress had conspired in what he described as a "rape of democracy".

Invoking the language of the civil rights era, Mr Barry said: "Freedom, democracy and self-determination are hallmarks of a free and empowered people."

In essence, the plan would provide billions of dollars in long-term federal funding for Washington and hundreds of millions in tax breaks to spur economic growth. The \$4.9-billion (£3 billion) pension shortfall in the District of Columbia would be transferred to the federal Government.



Barry: accused critics of "raping democracy"

ment while the district could borrow \$300 million for ten years from the US Treasury to ease its cash flow.

Most of the Mayor's authority would be transferred to the control board, which has been ordered to improve everything from poor housing to the abysmal condition of the city's streets and healthcare programmes for the poor.

At the heart of the programme appeared to be the single motive of ending the reign of a man deemed an embarrassment by both Democrats and Republicans. In 1990, after 12 years in which he oversaw the worst decline in the city's standards, Mr Barry was filmed by secret FBI cameras smoking "crack" cocaine with a former model in a hotel room. He was jailed for six months, but re-emerged in 1994 as a man reborn, who had renounced drugs and alcohol.

Playing to the polarised nature of the capital as a saviour against white oppression, he was re-elected, but has failed to improve either the financial circumstances or the state of the capital.

Colleagues believe the bold decision yesterday will only help to empower Mr Barry among the largely black underclass in Washington.

"It is a hydra-headed monster created to get rid of one man," said Sterling Tucker, a former council chairman. "It makes him a martyr, and he is a man very much at ease with martyrdom."

Washington officially became the country's first black majority city in the 1960 census. More than 70 per cent of the population is black and yet it is still known as the last colony, controlled ultimately by the white business elite and perhaps now by white politicians in Congress.

Thomas Davis, a Republican congressman from northern Virginia, said Mr Barry was personally responsible for the loss of authority, accusing the Mayor of playing a Nero-like role in the city's affairs, travelling abroad as Washington burned.



A damaged Federal Express MD11 cargo plane lies upside down on the runway at Newark International Airport in New Jersey yesterday after it crashed, flipped over and burst into flames while attempting to land. The five people aboard managed to escape through a cockpit window with only minor injuries and they were all later released from hospital. The flight had originated in Anchorage, Alaska

Cockroaches are target of latest purge in China

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA'S newest mass campaign has begun: "Everyone get busy, wipe out cockroaches." Beijing residents were urged yesterday to spray insecticide twice during August, and rubbish collection is to be improved.

It is unlikely that the campaign, although worthy, will have more of an effect in Beijing than it would in Hong Kong, which is the opposite in terms of public hygiene but is nonetheless cockroach-ridden.

Anyone over the age of 15 in China will sigh at the thought of yet another campaign. They are a Party hallmark. In the 1950s Chinese were ordered to eliminate flies, rats and sparrows, the latter because they were accused of eating huge quantities of grain. Millions of people banged pots and pans until the birds, with no place to alight, fell exhausted and were killed. Flies multiplied.

Rats survived because when people were ordered to bring in rat tails to show they had fulfilled their quotas, many cut them into segments rather than catch more rats.

Many campaigns have been bloodthirsty and were ultimately reversed. In the early years of the Communist period, millions of landlords were

killed. During the Cultural Revolution the targets were the "stinking ninth category" — intellectuals. This had been foreshadowed in the 1950s by the "Hundred Flowers" campaign when intellectuals were encouraged to criticise the Party; this was reversed in the "Anti-Rightist campaign" when they were purged.

In that period, too, Chinese were enjoined to "Learn from Dazhai", a model commune with astonishing crop yields. In the early 1980s, with Maoism on the wane, Dazhai was exposed as a corrupt place in secret receipt of government food supplies.

Also in the late 1950s, during the "Great Leap Forward", peasants eager to show their admiration for Mao vastly exaggerated their crop yields. This led to three years of the worst famine in world history, in which 30 to 50 million people died.

There have been campaigns over the years against Confucius, who was subsequently "rehabilitated". Deng Xiaoping was "smashed and dragged out", together with his family in 1966, but later hailed as the saviour of China.

Letters, page 17

revised interest rates

NOTICE TO ALL BORROWERS

The Society's standard variable base rate for new and existing borrowers will be increased to 8.09% from 1st August 1997 or at such other time in accordance with the terms of the mortgage deed.

NOTICE TO INVESTORS

REVISED INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE AT 1st AUGUST 1997

| AMOUNT INVESTED | GROSS % | NET % | GROSS % (Monthly) | NET % (Monthly) |
|--|---------|-------|-------------------|-----------------|
| NOVA STAR (NINTH ISSUE) | | | | |
| £10,000 - £300,000 | 6.20 | 4.96 | 5.95 | 4.76 |
| £1,000 - £9,999 | 4.30 | 3.60 | 4.25 | 3.40 |
| NOVA PLUS SPECIAL ACCOUNT | | | | |
| £200,000 - £300,000 | 4.40 | 3.51 | - | - |
| NOVA PLUS (ISSUE 2)/NOVA GROSS (ISSUE 2) (INCLUDES GROSS ISSUE TRANSFERRED ON PAYMENT) (NET RATES DO NOT APPLY TO NOVA GROSS (ISSUE 2)) | | | | |
| £50,000 - £300,000 | 4.20 | 3.36 | 4.20 | 3.36 |
| £10,000 - £49,999 | 3.65 | 2.92 | 3.65 | 2.92 |
| £5,000 - £9,999 | 2.90 | 2.32 | 2.90 | 2.32 |
| £1,000 - £4,999 | 2.60 | 2.08 | - | - |
| TESSA 3 | | | | |
| £1 - £9,000 | 7.05 | - | - | - |
| SMALL SAVERS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT¹ | | | | |
| £1 - £999 | 3.70 | 2.96 | - | - |
| INSTANT ACCESS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT¹ | | | | |
| £50,000 - £300,000 | 4.20 | 3.36 | 4.20 | 3.36 |
| £10,000 - £49,999 | 3.65 | 2.92 | 3.65 | 2.92 |
| £5,000 - £9,999 | 2.90 | 2.32 | 2.90 | 2.32 |
| £1,000 - £4,999 | 2.60 | 2.08 | - | - |
| £1 - £999 | 0.50 | 0.40 | - | - |
| NOVA PLUS/NOVA GROSS ACCOUNT (INCLUDES GROSS ISSUE TRANSFERRED ON PAYMENT) (NET RATES DO NOT APPLY TO NOVA GROSS) | | | | |
| £50,000 - £300,000 | 4.20 | 3.36 | 4.20 | 3.36 |
| £10,000 - £49,999 | 3.65 | 2.92 | 3.65 | 2.92 |
| £5,000 - £9,999 | 2.90 | 2.32 | 2.90 | 2.32 |
| £1,000 - £4,999 | 2.60 | 2.08 | - | - |
| £1 - £999 | 0.50 | 0.40 | - | - |
| SMALL SAVERS ACCOUNT | | | | |
| £1 - £999 | 3.70 | 2.96 | - | - |
| NOVA 50 | | | | |
| £50,000 - £300,000 | 7.10 | 5.68 | 6.85 | 5.48 |
| NOVA GROSS SPECIAL ACCOUNT | | | | |
| £200,000 - £300,000 | 4.40 | - | - | - |
| TESSA & TESSA 2 | | | | |
| £1 - £9,000 | 7.05 | - | - | - |
| DIRECT 50 | | | | |
| £100,000 - £300,000 | 7.45 | 5.96 | 7.20 | 5.76 |
| NOVA STAR (SIXTH/SEVENTH ISSUE) | | | | |
| £10,000 - £300,000 | 6.20 | 4.96 | 6.00 | 4.80 |
| NOVA STAR (EIGHTH ISSUE) | | | | |
| £1,000 - £300,000 | 6.20 | 4.96 | 5.95 | 4.76 |
| NOVA SELECT II | | | | |
| £25,000 - £300,000 | 6.20 | 5.04 | 6.05 | 4.84 |
| £5,000 - £24,999 | 6.15 | 4.92 | 5.90 | 4.72 |
| BONUS BOOSTER BOND (ISSUE I) | | | | |
| £25,000 - £300,000 | 6.25* | 5.00 | 6.00* | 4.80 |
| £5,000 - £24,999 | 6.15* | 4.92 | 5.90* | 4.72 |
| NOVA SUPER FEEDER (S.A.Y.E. FEEDER ACCOUNT) | | | | |
| £5,000 - £300,000 | 5.95 | 4.76 | - | - |
| NOVA FEEDER (S.A.Y.E. FEEDER ACCOUNT) | | | | |
| £1,200 | 4.95 | 3.96 | - | - |
| HIGH/EXTRA HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNTS | | | | |
| £50,000 - £300,000 | 4.20 | 3.36 | 4.20 | 3.36 |
| £10,000 - £49,999 | 3.65 | 2.92 | 3.65 | 2.92 |
| £5,000 - £9,999 | 2.90 | 2.32 | 2.90 | 2.32 |

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WORLD IN BRIEF

Holbrooke briefed on Bosnia talks

London: Robin Cook yesterday briefed Richard Holbrooke, the former American State Department official who negotiated the Bosnian peace agreement at Dayton, on his meetings with the former belligerents in advance of Mr Holbrooke's visit to Bosnia next week (Michael Binyon writes).

Mr Holbrooke will reinforce the sharp message the Foreign Secretary delivered in Sarajevo and Zagreb that not enough was being done to implement the Dayton agreements. There are hopes that Mr Holbrooke will also see President Milosevic, the Serbian leader, who was on holiday during Mr Cook's visit.

General's promotion blocked

Washington: William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, has blocked the promotion of Brigadier-General Terry Schwallier, who was in charge of the Dhahran barracks in Saudi Arabia where 19 US airmen were killed in a terrorist attack last year (Tom Rhodes writes). A Pentagon review shortcomings in security at the barracks. Mr Cohen's decision came after General Ronald Fogleman, Air Force Chief of Staff, asked for early retirement. He had said he would stand down if any senior officer were held responsible for lax security over the bombing.

US killer buried in Sicily

Palermo: The body of Joseph O'Dell, the murderer and rapist executed in Virginia last week, was buried in a cemetery here (Francesco Bongarra writes). His wife and sister were at the graveside. O'Dell was buried in the Sicilian capital because he was granted honorary citizenship last year by Leoluca Orlando, the Mayor. A headline describes the dead man as an "honorary citizen of Palermo, killed by Virginia, USA, in the name of a merciless and brutal justice system".

EU to ban 'deadly' seafood

Brussels: The European Union is set to outlaw shrimp and other seafood imports worth \$350 million (£216 million) from India, Madagascar and Bangladesh because of food-poisoning fears, officials said. The ban follows the discovery of hygiene deficiencies at seafood processing and production units, including cases of seafood infected with the potentially deadly bacteria vibrio — which causes cholera — and salmonella. (AP)

Vatican names British envoy

Rome: Archbishop Pablo Puente, a Vatican diplomat who helped to arrange the pope's visit to Beirut in May, was named by the Pope as Vatican envoy to Britain. The Spanish-born Mr Puente, 67, has served as the Vatican's Ambassador to Lebanon and Kuwait since 1989. The Beirut visit had been on hold since 1994 when the trip was called off for security reasons. (AP)

Spanish child porn ring used secret files

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

A SPANISH child pornography and prostitution ring used official medical and social services records to draw up a list of vulnerable children as young as five.

Police in Barcelona said more than 30 children were abused by the gang, which distributed the pornographic material around Europe.

José María Aznar, the Prime Minister, said he was "extremely concerned" by the investigation. "There will be new laws so that these sort of people can be pursued and tried more efficiently," he promised.

A local politician and the former head of a children's day centre were among 12 people arrested in the first stage of the operation. Hundreds of videos and photographs were confiscated. Police said they suspected the ring had been operating for nearly a decade.

Many of the videos were exported to other European countries. Some were seized by French police in April when they questioned 800 people in a nationwide crackdown on paedophiles.

The gang selected its victims from one of the poorest districts of Barcelona. Children were identified from records which showed them to be from broken or troubled homes. They were then approached on the street and were tempted with gifts and trips.

Police were unable to explain how the gang had obtained the computer files.

Quiet American invades Russia

The launch of Vogue in Russia is Jonathan Newhouse's latest coup.
Interview by Jason Cowley

As a young student at Yale, Jonathan Newhouse felt divided over his fabulous birthright. The scion of a publishing empire, he knew that he was expected to follow his father and cousins into the family business. But it was the early 1970s and his thoughts were full of rebellion and escape: he wanted to paint (he was reading line art at Yale), to travel, to pursue creative interests.

"It was the time of the Vietnam War, there were riots on the streets and many young people were questioning the values of the older generation," he says. "I had very mixed feelings about the family business: it was not something I embraced automatically."

Time moves on: Jonathan Newhouse, 45, is today considered, together with his cousin Steven, as a future leader of Advance Publications, the privately owned Newhouse family enterprise which Fortune magazine values at between \$8 billion and \$10 billion. The family's wealth is founded on ownership of more than 20 regional newspapers; several major cable television operations; the Condé Nast magazine group, whose flagship publications include Vogue and Vanity Fair, and the book publishing group Random House. They own, too, arguably the best magazine in the world, The New Yorker.

The chairman of Advance Publications is the reclusive, driven, Si Newhouse, Jonathan's first cousin and eldest son of the late family patriarch, Sam Newhouse, who emerged from the crumbling tenements of the immigrant quarter of New York's Lower East Side to galvanise the family's aspirations. Si Newhouse may be, as Jonathan says, in robust health, but he is also approaching 70; he must surely be considering his succession. If so, Jonathan is handily placed: since 1989 he has driven the global expansion of Condé Nast International while transforming its profitability.

The emerging economies of the Asian "tiger" countries and those in the old Eastern bloc are important markets. Flush with new wealth, people in these countries appear dazzled by Western luxury goods and designer labels. Newhouse has cannily responded by launching Vogue in Korea and Taiwan, and GQ in Japan yesterday afternoon he announced, in partnership with Russian publishers SK Communications International, his most notable expansion: a Russian edition of Vogue.

He is thrilled that what he calls a "symbol of luxury, consumerism and capitalism" should be embraced so enthusiastically in the former Soviet Union. To think that ten years ago this was a communist country and now Vogue is opening there...

The first Russian editions of Western magazines such as Playboy, Cosmopolitan and Elle were launched almost three years ago — and have prospered. Condé Nast, though, was more cautious. Newhouse says: "As a company, we tend not to be the first into a market because we appeal to the more upmarket elements in it. So we can only go into a market when our readers and advertisers are ready for us. This is the case in Russia."

"We see Russia as a very fertile market for the future. Russians are currently the most aggressive consumers on the planet; they occupy the same place as the Japanese in the Eighties and the Arabs in the Seventies. In luxury shops all over the world, the biggest and best customers are now Russian. If you walk into a restaurant in Russia you see women dressed from head to toe in Chanel and Versace. You don't see this in London or New York."

The vulgarity and lawlessness of contemporary Russia, with its mafia gangs and prostitutes, its nouveaux riches flaunting their Versace medallions and Chanel "double Cs", is of no concern to Newhouse. "Look, we are from Condé Nast, not Interpol," he says, laughing. "Whether a woman is a princess or a prostitute she still has to dress herself: if she has wealth and taste, or aspires to those things, the magazine she is going to turn to first is Vogue. Whether the money is being made dishonestly is not our concern."



Jonathan Newhouse no longer feels daunted by the family fortune. "Wealth brings ease, freedom and protection, but, in itself, it's not what's satisfying or important in life"

Jonathan Newhouse says: "Sure, we value our privacy as a family. We were all taught to conduct ourselves with discretion. It doesn't suit us to call attention to ourselves. As Jews

from New York owning newspapers throughout the country, we thought it wise to keep a low profile. Unlike great newspaper proprietors such as Randolph Hearst, they had no wider political ambitions. The typical newspaper proprietor in the early part of the century used newspapers for political and personal power. Our goal in owning newspapers was to maintain the quality and health of the papers themselves. We aren't Howard Hughes types, we aren't being obsessive — we just don't want to call attention to ourselves."

Did being Jewish in America have anything to do with their reticence? "It wasn't and has never been a problem, but maybe there was a time when it could have been."

The journey of the Newhouse family, in just two generations, from the teeming ghettos to one of the largest privately held fortunes in the US, is a metaphor for modern America. He agrees that "our journey typifies the American dream of arriving with nothing and building a success."

His grandfather, Meier Neuhauas, certainly had nothing when he arrived in New York from Russia, having fled Tsarist pogroms. The son of a

rabbi, he was debilitated by poor, and scraped a living by making braces. "My grandfather, whom I never knew, was a poor man and in bad health. My uncle [Sam] was the success at business. He built the business, originally by borrowing and scraping money together to buy his first newspaper [the Staten Island Advance, from which Advance Publications derives its name], and then slowly expanding it."

Like his father, Norman, Jonathan Newhouse began his career in the production department of one of the family newspapers, learning how to set hot type. He progressed quickly, working in jobs of increasing responsibility before Si Newhouse moved him into magazines. In 1989, he was appointed chief executive of Condé Nast International and moved to Paris.

He enjoyed the city and his work, but was locked into a deteriorating marriage (his first wife, Deborah, now lives in New York with their two young daughters, Emily and Nora).

One afternoon, Newhouse visited a clairvoyant who told him that he would soon meet the love of his life and move to

a "land surrounded by water". Shortly afterwards, he re-named acquaintance with Ronnie Cooke, who was to become his second wife.

They had first met while he was publisher and she was creative director of Details magazine. "I was married when we first met, so our relationship was purely professional. We kept in touch over the years and I even tried to hire her a couple of times."

After his divorce, they met again in Paris. "Things worked out and we decided, in the end, to move to London."

They married in Richmond register office in June 1995. Ronnie, though, has spent most of the past year commuting by Concorde between London and New York, where she works as creative director of Calvin Klein. He feels her absence keenly. As a result, she has not renewed her contract with Calvin Klein and is returning permanently to London, working on freelance assignments. Newhouse says: "We have been apart a little too much recently. Let me put it this way, I kissed Versace more recently than I kissed my wife."

He describes Ronnie as the love of his life. "She is a brilliant, talented, vibrant, wonderful person; we have a very passionate relationship."

His greatest pain remains his separation from his children. "I talk to them every day and write to them. I see them on holidays and I go back once a month, sometimes twice, but this isn't nearly enough. It's terribly painful to be separated from them."

He pauses, shifts uneasily in his chair. "What astounds me about the British," he continues, "is how they can send their children away to school. To me, children are the most precious things in the world."

There is nothing imperious about Jonathan Newhouse. His conversation is engagingly colloquial, free from the clichés and jargon of so much contemporary business discourse. A small, shy man, he is disarmingly polite.

He no longer feels daunted by the wealth and expectation of the family legacy. "One lives one's life as a person; you get up, do your work and take care of your family. Wealth brings ease, freedom and protection, but, in itself, it's not what's satisfying or important in life." So what is? "My family and my work."

Or, to echo Sam Newhouse: "The ties that matter are the ties to each other."

THE SUNDAY TIMES



STANLEY KUBRICK
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important American
films of the 20th century



ANTON CHEKHOV
The Russian master
of the short story



ELVIS PRESLEY
The King of Rock and Roll



GOthic GUINNESS

I don't mind being dubbed aristocratic. I think it's quite funny — and it's helped me a lot

JASMINE GUINNESS — THE LATEST ARISTO-MODEL

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Sushi — the kebab of the 1990s?

There is a moment at the end of *Withnail and I* when the drug dealer announces that the spirit of the Sixties is coming to an end because hippy wigs are on sale at Woolworth. I know what he means. It is difficult not to feel the same way about sushi.

It is not so much that Japan's appetite for the stuff is supposed to be in danger of causing the "commercial" extinction of the southern bluefin tuna; rather the sight of boxes of sushi in Pret a Manger. That this admirable chain of sandwich bars now flogs sushi, along with cappuccino and an ersatz Soho atmosphere, means that, according to Peter York, the style guru, the trend for lumps of congealed rice, topped with cold fish, "has had it as far as fashionable people are concerned".

Sushi has become the kebab of the 1990s. It had to happen, but there will be those who mourn its passing into the mainstream. There was something wonderfully naive about the way that sushi was embraced by the self-appointed fashionable elite of Britain.

The Eighties was a time when Japan enjoyed cultural and economic hegemony over the world. Readers of the then nascent style press would drool over technoporn — loving intimate pictures of the latest miniature camera, microscopic solar-powered radio or sleek hi-fi system. Many people even got out of bed and slept on the floor — remember futons?

"People were craven about aspects of Japanese culture," York says. "Sushi suited people who liked to have obscure, nasty, raw food. Nobody in their right mind likes raw food. I went there [Japan]. I had it. It was nasty."

But back in those days York was in a minority. During the early Eighties Andrea Riva, proprietor of the famed eponymous Barnes restaurant, went into business with Lord Lichfield, the Hon Henry Smith and Eddie Lim and opened a restaurant called Pier 31 on Cheyne Walk. "It was quite nouvelle cuisine-ish"

The cold fish has reached our high street, mourns Nick Foulkes



Once fashionable, now mainstream

Riva says, "but as starters we had sushi and sashimi: seabass, salmon and tuna. People were going more for that than the other things."

Not one to miss a burgeoning culinary trend, Riva installed a sushi bar and shipped in a sushi chef. "He came from a dynasty of sushi chefs. The way they cut the fish goes from father to son, it is more a ritual than a way of preparing food," Riva says.

"We used to do sushi boats. We served it in a little boat and the customers must have felt as if it had come all the way from Japan because it took the guy so long to cut the sushi up."

Nevertheless, sushi slipped into the Wall Street lifestyle easily enough. A bottle or two of Cristal was ordered to start with, then some overpriced and

overoaked Oz chardonnay with the sushi. After which it was a bottle of port or a line or two of coke... leaving just enough time to wrap the Porsche around a lamppost before getting up to Sam to go to the gym before closing that deal.

However, not all sushi's new devotees quite knew how to face this delicacy. There were tales of customers who ate everything including the little green plastic leaves on which the sushi was presented — a little chewy perhaps, but palatable once smothered in wasabi, soy sauce and shredded ginger.

The key to sushi's success was that it had been endorsed by America.

"It has those Californian overtones that it is good for you and the heart," York says. Riva sees the popularity of sushi as analogous with the rise of the cooking of his native Northern Italy. "Like everything that becomes popular, sushi did not come directly to England from Japan and Northern Italian food did not come directly from Italy. They came via America. Sushi and polenta have existed for centuries but to be accepted in England they needed to be baptised in New York or Los Angeles."

These days Pier 31 is a car showroom and sushi is being eaten by secretaries who want a bit of a change from their Philadelphia cheese sandwiches. There is nothing wrong with this, it is just that sushi is not what it used to be.

What is interesting is to try to define what the late 1990s riposte to cold fish and rice might be. Given the excruciating trendiness of Momo, just off Regent Street, might not the food of North Africa become the hip thing? Any chef worthy of his own TV slot is bound to be brushing up on his couscous. And, as regards cultural hegemony, I have seen a few pieces about houses in North Africa in definitive opinion-forming magazines.

If you want to get on the couscous trail you'd better hurry — Marks & Spencer does an extremely tasty, ready-made couscous with vegetables.

Don't scare tycoons away from politics

David Simon defends himself as a minister and a businessman

When the Prime Minister asked me to enter the Government as Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe I had to think twice. You do not resign the chairmanship of a great company lightly. I was aware of the problems as of the challenges. I thought that my appointment might attract some criticism in the Labour Party despite efforts by the leadership to transform the party's relations with the business community. But three months on I am sure I made the right decision, and astonished that resulting criticism has come not from the less "new" members of new Labour, but from an apparent champion of the free market, John Redwood.

I am a businessman, not a politician. When I took on my role I made it clear that I did not intend to enter the world of party politics, with its attendant media circus. I prefer my work to be judged by results. I do not intend for that to change now, but I do recognise that charges continue to be made about my actions. While the Opposition has been careful to stop short of alleging impropriety, three central charges have been put over the last weeks. I think it is right that I answer each of them.

The first charge is that my continuing shareholding in BP is a conflict of interest with my ministerial responsibilities. There is no substance to this charge. It is clearly sensible that ministers should avoid any suggestion that their decisions are based on personal considerations. To ensure this, ministers who hold shares are offered three alternatives on entering the government. To take no part in official business, which may constitute a conflict of interest; to transfer shares to a trust, the managers of which would take decisions without reference to the minister; or to sell the shares.

My position was complicated by the fact that, as well as being a shareholder in BP, I was the chairman of the company until my appointment to government. I therefore took the view that it would be inappropriate for that reason alone to be involved in any government decisions directly affecting BP.

In addition I had considerable insider knowledge of BP and I judged that my ability to sell the shares was constrained both by insider dealing legislation and personal judgment as to what constitutes sound governance. The day I entered my new office I took advice from the Permanent Secretary at the department. I was advised to put my non-BP holdings into a blind trust, which I have done. This was not appropriate for my BP shares. It was decided that I should keep my BP shares until the situation is reviewed next January, when a further assessment of my access to insider knowledge can be made. Until then none of my BP shares will be traded. In the meantime steps have been taken to ensure that I do not allow any conflict of interest between my BP shareholding and my official business.

The second charge is that

these steps have been inadequate and that I still take decisions which relate to BP. This is also totally without foundation. No BP-specific matters come before me. In all the flurry of political incoherence over the last few days nobody has ever suggested that I have taken any decision which specifically benefited BP. I do however take decisions on generic competitiveness issues with the aim of benefiting all UK companies. The job given to me by the Prime Minister is to help British industry compete more effectively in Europe. If I am doing my job effectively I will benefit BP as well as every other company in Britain. I make no apology for that. But attempts to claim that such generic decisions represent a conflict of interest border on the absurd. It is the equivalent of saying that the Social Security ministers should stop trying to modernise the welfare state if they are in a pension scheme.

Specifically, John Redwood has claimed that a conflict arose when I signed the Single Market Action Plan which mentioned, among many other measures, gas liberalisation. Gas liberalisation is not, in fact, being negotiated by me, even though it does not specifically relate to BP. The document I signed was simply an Explanatory Memorandum which describes a large number of Commission proposals to help complete the Single Market. It in no way amounts to a conflict of interest with my shareholding.

The third charge is that I will be avoiding tax because some of my shares are held in a Jersey trust. That also is untrue. BP does, perfectly legally, hold shares in a Jersey trust which relate to the long-term performance plan, which benefits some 350 of the BP staff. It is a long-term scheme which only pays if the company is successful. Individuals pay tax on shares as soon as they are awarded to them. I have paid full income tax on all the shares held in the trust.

I understand the Opposition and the media have a duty to ensure that the high standards in public life to which this Government is committed are being maintained. But the facts in my case simply do not support their charges and innuendoes. Both the spirit and the letter of the rules have been followed in every way.

I have a thick skin and will not be deflected from the challenge of helping Britain to win in Europe. My one regret is that the row generated by the Opposition may make other businessmen wary of becoming involved in government. Indeed, the logical conclusion from some of the arguments employed by what was once the party of business seems to be that all businessmen entering government are inevitably subject to conflicts of interest and should be barred. That would be a shame for politics. It would be a shame for Britain.

Lord Simon of Highbury is Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe.



The Andes connection

Body of political sketch-writer found clutching old paperback in Peruvian gully. Remember, you read it here first

A favourite book is like a favourite person. She may not be the best. She may be no better than dozens of others you could name and she may be no better than she ought to be. But you love her. You love her with all her faults. You love her, ready to concede without demur how easily she could be belittled, but confident you will never change your mind.

For me this book is *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*. For those who care to be correct in these things, "Luis" is Spanish, not French, and therefore the "s" is pronounced.

The author, Thornton Wilder, died in 1957. He was an American, born in Wisconsin, who spent part of his early life abroad; his infancy in China. A schoolteacher, airforceman and later a professor at Harvard, Wilder is often described as a Christian humanist. The expression reads too bleakly for so warm, open and rather mystical a writer.

After this book, Wilder went on to write further novels and some wonderful plays. *Our Town*, when I saw it produced by the Manchester Youth Theatre recently, reduced me to tears. Though no more than a chronicle of the unexceptional lives of a family of small-town Protestant Americans, it is written with depth and kindness and intensity — and an economy which leaves Updike floundering.

The Happy Journey simply places the members of a family on the stage in the positions they would occupy in their motor car, and follows them on a family outing. It is more moving than I can say. *The Merchant of Yonkers* found its way to fame when turned into the musical *Hello Dolly*. And *The Ides of March* is probably Wilder's best book.

But it is *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, published in 1927 when he was 30, which established Wilder as a great American novelist. He takes a real event in history as his starting point: the collapse of a hanging limestone bridge in the Peruvian Andes, pitching the small group of unrelated travellers upon it to their deaths.

His glance fell upon the bridge, and at that moment a wailing noise filled the air, as when the string of some musical instrument snaps in a disused room, and he saw the bridge divide and fling five gesticulating men into the valley below.

Anyone else would have said to himself with secret joy: "Within ten minutes myself..." but it was another

thought that visited Brother Juniper: "Why did this happen to these five? If there were any plan in the universe at all, if there were any pattern in a human life, surely it could be discovered mysteriously latent in those lives so suddenly cut off. Either we live by accident and die by accident, or we live by plan and die by plan. And on that instant Brother Juniper made the resolve to inquire into the secret lives of those five persons that moment falling through the air, and to surprise the reason of their taking off."

In the slim, 100-page novel which follows, Wilder follows Brother Juniper's researches into five separate lives, thrown (literally) by chance together at the end. It is as though we begin with some great discord on the cathedral organ, then follow each of the organ pipes from its construction through to this moment of cacophony. Except that the novelist finds beneath the final discord a secret harmony.

Even in that short passage you may detect some of Wilder's strengths and weaknesses as a writer. Beneath a classical style he is an emotional man, but clothes this in self-consciously formal phrasing. The result can be a little precious, at times forced, but reads beautifully. His descriptions of Peru are masterly...

...a llama (a lady with a long neck and sweet, shallow eyes, burdened down by a fur cape and picking her way down an interminable staircase) came over and offered her a velvety cleft nose to stroke. The llama is deeply interested in the human beings about her, is even fond of pretending that she too is one of them, and of inserting her head into their conversations as though in a moment she would lift her voice and contribute a wail and helpful comment.

But she never quite does. Describing the receipt of a cruel letter from someone who is dear, (full of wounding remarks rather

brilliantly said, perhaps said for the sheer virtuosity of giving pain neatly). Wilder writes: "Each of his phrases found its way through the eyes of the Marquesa, then, carefully wrapped in understanding and forgiveness, it sank into her heart."

But I must not try your patience with quotation from a book you could buy and read yourself. After 70 years it is still in print.

The edition before me as I write is one of those familiar old orange-and-white Penguin paperbacks. It was published in 1941, but this copy seems to have been printed just after

the war, carrying inside its back cover advertisements for books such as *Flight to Victory*.

It has just been given to me by a friend who bought it last year in Hay-on-Wye. He knows I love the book. But he was also intrigued by something which seems to have escaped the attention of the bookseller, who sold it for next to nothing. Inside the front cover, the original owner has used the title page to make extensive notes.

Only a politician or a journalist could commit such sacrilege. I started to read the notes, written in light blue ink in a small, slightly feminine hand with the ghost of a backward slope, using a medium-rubbed fountain pen. These are a politician's notes, towards a speech. "Stick to motion," is an early entry.

"Accord," says the first line. "hope mine will not be suspected of being merely to [illegible] sympathy for my argument." Later, under the sub-heading "unemployment", he (for I assume it to be a man) has written "I can tell you the reaction when headlines in the papers read 'My heart bleeds for Lancashire'."

Was this a Labour politician with a northern accent, on his way to make an anti-Tory speech in Lancashire? "Foreign policy" is scribbled in: "Churchills round table confab with

Stalin? Promises [underlined]: regulations — civil servants — no cut in social services? Health...

"Food — cut in imports. Results. Rise in prices. No schools. Building: poor standards."

"No control better — but how? Butler & Churchill — one of whom says we are doing nicely, other says we are in a trapdoor..."

And then this marvellous phrase: "How can there be organisation between brilliant men of balanced outlook like Mr Butler or Mr Eden, between catchphrase politicians like Mr Churchill, men like Lord Woolton & Dr Charles Hill who are in the predicament of I've got a reputation but what can I do with it — and the mass of *Daily Express* headlines in the party itself?"

I may be wrong but the sentiments here, and their means of expression, strike me as coming from a senior politician of a not unthoughtful disposition, the term "catchphrase politician" is splendid, a forerunner for today's disparaging "soundbite politician" and an echo of something Evelyn Waugh was to write of the later Churchill: "simply a radio personality who outlived his prime." Reading these notes, I speculate that they were made by a Labour front-bencher with a Lancashire accent, in a train and on his way to debate against a Tory government, probably in the early 1950s.

Only speculation. If the writer is sufficiently famous, his handwriting may be recognisable to scholars. I would half like to find out — yet am half inclined to leave the notes to tease me, as they now do, inside the cover of my favourite novel.

And I fancy that if Wilder is watching me typing, he will be amused. As it so happens, you see, I am about to fly to Peru. By the time you read this I shall have flown. I shall take the book.

A *Times* political columnist, Hay-on-Wye: *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, given fortuitously by a friend; a past politician's speech notes; a train to Lancashire; an aeroplane to South America where both my friend and I intend to climb a 22,000-foot Andean peak... it is all converging.

Wish us a safe flight, but if the worst happens... well, I have done even better than Brother Juniper. I have surprised my own taking off.

Are the old ties fraying?

John Lloyd on our dwindling sense of union

The Cartier tournament, English polo's premier event, was played last weekend at the Guards ground in Windsor. The Westchester Cup, for which American and English teams have competed annually for more than a century, was won for the first time in decades by the home side, 12-9.

The day was brilliant. Glossy cars were arrayed in lines, with picnickers supping champagne between. Soldiers in dress uniform directed people to their places. The conversation was happy, the accents Home Counties, the style smart-casual. The Queen came and sat with her consort on the balcony of a little wooden pavilion by the halfway line.

When the teams came on to the field, each man cantered in a long sweep before the Queen, each swirling off his helmet in salutation. A magnificent game followed: the muscled, sweating ponies turning, racing and stopping in response to riders' commands. The players displayed the qualities of the ancient game — a demonstration of manhood and horsemanship. Here was a concentrate of a kind of Englishness.

A few days before, the plan under which power is to be devolved to a Scottish parliament had been revealed. The Scottish political establishment rejoiced. William Hague said it would be kept by a future Tory administration; the Scottish National Party said it would be supported as a gateway to greater freedoms.

In an interview earlier this week, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, told me that he had set in train a process which would revive a Scots political class, whittle down the duties of the Secretary of State for Scotland and stimulate democratic habits and civic engagement. Mr Dewar was careful to stress that it was a settlement which left sovereignty intact in Westminster: the extensive powers to be devolved — referendums permitting — would not, he said, reduce by one scintilla the essence of Westminster rule.

Yet (I thought, as I strolled uncomfortably about the Guards ground) sovereignty in this country was a palimpsest, a layered and subtle concoction in which responsiveness in Westminster government was resorted through a thousand shared experiences of empire and wars, of mingling of the Scots and English classes through institutions such as the military, public schools, trade unions, political parties.

The layers have long been unraveling. The shared sacrifices and triumphs are fading or discredited, the military a professionalised cadre of high competence but uncertain as to purpose, the trade unions in decline. The ties of class, the habits of command and deference, are being replaced on the side of the Scots by an insistence that an old right to statehood should take at least a quasi-stated form, and on the side of the English by a dawning realisation that some new national self-definition must be attempted.

In brief essays he wrote in the 1950s on English writers, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa — the Sicilian prince whose solitary full-length work *The Leopard* put him in the forefront of 20th-century European letters — celebrated the English habits (as he saw them) of fairness, scrupulousness, care for substance over form, understatement and pragmatism. He romanticised these to stress his contempt for the decadence, showiness, mendacity and factiousness (as he saw it) of the Italian aristocracy.

But some Scots used to agree with him about the English. John Buchan's aristocratic men of action were as at home on the grouse moor as the polo field. His proletarians and petits bourgeois, whether Cockney or Glaswegian, earned admiration by their ability to conjoin two types of patriotism — the English or British with the larger British. His was a world in which the dominant institutions had been recast from a purely English to an inclusive British form.

Politics now dominates in its stead. The status quo is no longer an option; Scotland cannot be denied a parliament and remain governable. But its creation is — however skillfully Dewar has framed the new settlement — a hazard. The new parliament may make the slippery slope to independence more steep. It may, on the other hand, be a medium through which the Scots soberly conclude that a Union under revised terms remains welcome to them.

The Cartier tournament, great display of manners, wealth and courage as it is, no longer functions as one of the celebrations at the apex of a British Establishment. It has been privatised and folded into the entertainment industry, a themed occasion with royal knobs on.

If we are to stay together as a nation, we cannot look to such occasions, nor to the Queen or her successor, to express a transcendent ideal any longer. We have to find it in political and personal choice, in the discovery of a preference for a state which provides a British solvent for the drier, myriadic nationalisms of the Scots or the English, the Irish or Welsh. Or go our own ways.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the *New Statesman*.

Escape route

THE latest issue of the *Church Times*, mouthpiece of the Anglican establishment, tackles for the first time the previously taboo question of how the Prince of Wales might satisfactorily marry Camilla Parker Bowles. A French civil wedding, it concludes, may be the answer.

In a piece over two pages, Brian Brindley, the former secretary of the General Synod who has since become a Roman Catholic, says that nothing the Prince has done to date prejudices his becoming Defender of the Faith. Far more promiscuous men have become

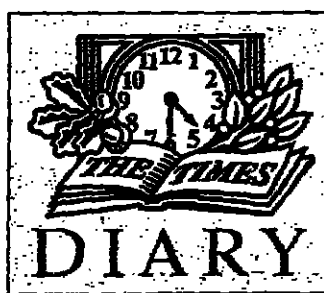
King. There is also no objection to his marrying Camilla. The problem is the possible awkwardness of Camilla being made Queen.

There is no legal provision in Britain, writes Brindley, for a morganatic marriage which enables royals to marry non-royals without conferring any of their titles or status on their children or spouses. So if Charles were to marry Camilla, she would have to become Queen.

Brindley, however, believes he may have found a way for Charles to marry Camilla, be crowned King and yet for Camilla not to become Queen — in effect for them to have a quasi-morganatic marriage without any change in legislation.

The Royal Marriages Act of 1772 says that members of the Royal Family must have the consent of the Sovereign or Parliament to marry. Without either, the marriage and any children will not be recognised.

Brindley cites four precedents in which members of the British Royal Family have married without the proper assent, from George IV and Mrs Fitzherbert in 1785 to Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson. Charles, argues Brindley, could take Camilla out of British jurisdic-



tion — say to France — marry without royal assent but according to civil law, and then return with Camilla as his civil wife. She could then perhaps be given a courtesy title but would not have to be crowned Queen beside King Charles. Bizarre, as Brindley concedes, but perhaps the solution.

Over-aggressive paparazzi have sabotaged the attempts of Oasis singer Liam Gallagher to retrieve his lost car. So eager have they been to keep the singer's address in North London to themselves, they have torn down all the posters which Gallagher pinned near his north London home requesting the car's safe return. Gallagher has since drafted some more.

Free reeling

REPORTERS travelling with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to

Croatia recently found themselves doubling up as his spokesmen. Cook had made a great point on his visit of talking up the importance of a free and independent media in an infant democracy. To show he was serious, he decided to give the only television interview of his trip not to the state media but to a small, struggling yet independent television station.

Unfortunately the station's youthful camera crew were more enthusiastic than competent. When they tried to play back the tape of their long interview with Cook, they found nothing but fuzz. Returning to Cook's end-of-tour press conference, they were too shy to bother the Foreign Secretary for



Lady Neubert: happy band

another interview, so it was left to the men from *The Times* and *The Economist* to explain Cook's plan for Croatia — and reiterate the importance of a free press.

Following my series on clubs for parliamentary spouses comes reassuring news from the all-action Conservative Parliamentary Wives Club, still up and running despite earlier reports. The CPWC has held steady in the water under the command of Sally Neubert, wife of Sir Michael Neubert, the former MP for Romford. Its 180-strong membership consists of wives of current and former MPs, but no husbands. "Tory husbands, unlike their Labour counterparts, do not seem to need a support group," says Lady Neubert.

Erupting

MUTINY is fomenting on the island of Montserrat over the actions of Frank Savage, the British Governor, who failed to deal effectively with the effects of the volcanic eruptions on his patch. With British aid arriving on the volcano-lit island in agonising dribs, Savage decided to hold a drinks party for foreign aid workers last week at the island's smartest hotel, the Vue Point, which lies in the middle of a danger area.

The mass exodus from the island, however, meant there was a



Frank Savage: poor show

staff shortage. So Savage sent a party out to find waiters from among the poor wretches living in temporary shelters up the side of the volcano. Ten of them were dragged into handing round Savage's drinks.

Now Savage has decided to muscle in on a delegation of local officials who are visiting London to complain about the lack of support they have received from the Foreign Office. He will be holding private meetings prior to the delegation's ones. The feeling of an increasingly suspicious Montserrat populace is that Savage is not on side.

P.H.S.





WHATEVER SIMON SAYS

The minister's holdings break the spirit of the new code

The scale of the Conservatives' defeat at the election owed something to their policies and much to their conduct. Tony Blair won on the promise of cleaner politics, "restoring the bond of trust between the British people and their Government". In yesterday's revised code of conduct on procedures for ministers, the Prime Minister writes that "we are all here to serve and we must all serve honestly and in the interests of those who gave us our positions of trust". And that, as he emphasises, means ministers working "within the letter and spirit of the Code".

The new guidelines are in many areas a tighter constraint on ministers than their predecessors. Labour has not only imported its discipline into government; it has now formalised the rules under which it operated in Opposition. So, for example, all major media interviews have to be cleared with Downing Street. So must the policy content, timing, and form of all speeches, press releases and announcements.

Departments even have to keep a record of all media contacts by ministers and officials. This borders on the absurd. The Treasury managed to do it, just, in its periods of pre-Budget purdah. But, given the number of occasions on which politicians, officials and journalists mix, either intentionally or accidentally, such a log would be immense. It is also likely to be circumvented if ministers feel spied upon.

Most topical in this document, however, is the section on ministers' private interests. This, quite correctly, errs on the side not just of probity but of perceived probity. Thus, "ministers will want to order their affairs so that no conflict arises or is thought to arise" and they should "scrupulously avoid any danger of an actual or apparent conflict of interest between their ministerial position and their private financial interests".

It is to this section that eyes are inevitably drawn where Lord Simon of Highbury's holdings of BP shares are concerned. The new Minister for European Trade and

Competitiveness, who was chairman of BP until May 1, has given us no reason to suppose that he has acted with anything other than the highest standards of probity. But his £2 million holding of BP shares undoubtedly gives rise to an apparent conflict of interest. And it is hard to deny that such a conflict "is thought to arise".

Lord Simon argues, on the opposite page, that he cannot sell his shares without being accused of insider dealing. He also considers it "not appropriate" to put them in a blind trust. He does not address the question of why he did not declare his holding in the register of Lords' interests.

Since even serving directors of companies are allowed to sell their shares after each results announcement, it seems odd that a former director should feel bound not to do so. If Lord Simon has erred on the side of caution with regard to insider dealing, he has erred on the side of inaction with regard to possible conflicts of interest. Why should it not be appropriate for his BP shares to enter the blind trust? By absconding himself from all DTI decisions relating to BP, he severely circumscribes his usefulness. BP is one of Britain's biggest companies with widespread interests.

Businessmen have always had difficulties moving into politics, usually stemming from a political culture that resented interlopers. Now that there seems to be developing a greater degree of interplay between the two worlds, it would be a pity, as Lord Simon says, if other businessmen were deterred from making the switch.

The answer is simple. The minister should rearrange his holdings so that no conflict even appears to exist. It is odd that Mr Blair has not already asked him to do so. One of the more irritating characteristics of the last Government was a reluctance to admit mistakes and a refusal to put them right until far too much damage had already been done. A new Government demands a new style of response.

DENG'S TRICKY LEGACY

Ripples disturb the Chinese political lake

August is the month in which China's most senior leaders retreat to their private beach — to rest but also to jockey for future position. The centre of their attention is this autumn's Party Congress, a five-yearly event which has been given particular significance by the death of Deng Xiaoping.

Curious ripples are disturbing the manicured surface of Chinese high politics, after months in which the official word has been one of no surprises. The political succession, with President Jiang Zemin at the "core" of a collective leadership, is asserted to have been settled by Deng long ago as for economic, the Party needs no more guidance than Deng's doctrine of "socialism with Chinese characteristics".

In fact, this Congress is an all-important political event for Mr Jiang. Although he already holds every key position, titles are a poor guide to real power in China. Deng, notably, held none after 1990. He must use the Congress to assign his authority on Party, Army and government bureaucracy and secure the most important positions for his own lieutenants. What this suggests is indicated, therefore, was that the inevitable battles for jobs and influence — including the premiership due to be vacated next year by the unpopular Li Peng — were to be kept firmly off-stage.

But this week Mr Jiang and senior Party ideologues have publicly advertised discord within the elite, accusing "leftists" — Marxist diehards — of attacking the strategy of economic liberalisation. Some of this may be shadow-boxing. The veteran ideologue alleged to be masterminding this revolt, Deng Ligu, and his allies are ill-placed to win over the big Party battalions. Mao Zedong would have dismissed their strapping as "the buzzing of mayflies".

A more powerful and more covert challenge to Mr Jiang comes from the left, but from a powerful wing of the Politburo led by Qiao Guohua and Li Rui. They are thought to favour more radical

institutional reforms than Mr Jiang, whose extreme caution has earned him the street nickname of "weather-vane".

The immediate arguments are not about policy, but power, and they will be resolved before the Congress opens. Since all the players agree that there must be no hint of a political vacuum, post-Deng, they will present a united front. The more important question, for China and the world, is whether the new leadership can muster the genuine unity of purpose that will be required to address the "social contradictions" that Mr Jiang has accused the left of exploiting.

The trickiest issue is what to do about Mao's rusting "iron ricebowl", the vast loss-making state enterprises which consume 60 per cent of national investment and cost the country a fortune in unproductive subsidy. Zhu Rongji, the economic supremo leading the race for the premiership, has sworn to turn these behemoths around within three years; but this may be unachievable without mass privatisation. The left protests that to abandon the core doctrine of "the state-owned economy as the mainstay" would dissolve the ideology of socialism and reduce China to "an appendage of international capitalism". Moderates worry that these enterprises employ millions of mostly urban workers who, with social unrest and unemployment already on the rise, are politically risky to dismiss.

China's rapid modernisation is a phenomenal but still patchy achievement. Deng's brew of political immobilism and headlong economic growth poses intractable problems for his heirs. There is far greater cultural freedom, unmatched in the political arena; there are tensions between central government and increasingly assertive provincial authorities; and corruption has fed popular cynicism. The coming Congress will provide the first clues as to whether Deng's heirs can manage the forces unleashed in China by the success of the reforms that the master pragmatist allowed.

IN THE FAST LANE

Current car registration is not in consumers' interests

Amid champagne and canapés smart showrooms opened at midnight to usher in the era of the R registration automobile. In the next month some 500,000 cars will leave the forecourt, 30 vehicles per working minute. An extraordinary £4.5 billion will be spent — 25 per cent of all yearly sales — largely to satisfy a certain kind of snobbery.

This may soon be history. The Department of Transport and the industry itself seem determined to end this anachronism. For 30 years, August 1 has been the most important month in the motoring calendar. This curious date emerged through a predictably British compromise. An early experiment with January 1 proved universally unpopular. Manufacturers favoured June 1, dealers fancied October 1 and Harold Wilson's Government bravely split the difference. All the indications are that this will be the last such occasion. Within weeks, a new formula is expected to be introduced setting two key dates, in March and September.

If the switch comes it will doubtless induce apoplexy in some quarters. With a double-date system, one-upmanship may never seem quite the same again, except for those

so rich that they can purchase two cars a year. But the present scramble — for all its glitz and glamour — offers little but certain exhaustion for those in the showroom. It does even less for consumers.

Car sales in Britain have a seasonal quality second only to Santa Claus. Vehicles for August are stockpiled as early as March. They sit while almost nothing is purchased in summer. Then in a rush they are released on the market. This involves £1 billion in extra paperwork. It is apparently impossible for sales outlets to cope with the influx. The RAC estimates that up to one car in four develops an early fault and returns to base by the end of September. And by October, when most continental European manufacturers launch their latest models, they are no longer even the "newest" on the market.

Customers have little to lose by changing these bizarre arrangements. The trade might look forward to a somewhat more sensible distribution of sales and the sight of the beach in August. This particular tradition should be parked with little compunction. Britain should not operate a Rolls-Royce industry on a Reliant Robin schedule.

Taking the moral view on the sale of arms overseas

From the Executive Director of Saferworld and the Policy Director of Oxfam

Sir, The Government's announcement of the new criteria governing British arms exports contains a number of positive signals. Although the qualifications identified in your leading article of July 29, "The moral arms salesman", are disappointing, the move towards stopping the export of equipment "which might be used for internal repression" gives at least some hope for the future.

We are yet to be convinced, however, by the decision that it is "unrealistic and impractical" to backdate the commitment to ending exports of repressive equipment. There is clear evidence, for example, that armoured vehicles and water cannon have been used for repression in Indonesia and their export licences should be revoked immediately.

We welcome Robin Cook's statement that "an informed public debate is the best guarantee of responsible regulation of the arms trade". However, we feel that we have not had such a debate about the export of Hawks to Indonesia.

Fears remain about the use of these aircraft for internal repression in East Timor in the past and potentially in the future. The Foreign Affairs Select Committee should establish a comprehensive inquiry into these concerns and all further exports should be suspended pending its findings.

The key to an enlightened and effective policy is to confront the tired argument "if we don't sell, others will". We welcome the Government's commitment to press for a European code of conduct "setting high common standards governing arms exports".

Day after day, we and the people with whom we work have witnessed the devastating consequences of an unethical arms trade. The forthcoming UK presidency of the EU provides an ideal opportunity to introduce a restrictive code, even when this may have commercial costs.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL EAVIS,
Executive Director, Saferworld,
DIANNA MELROSE,
Policy Director, Oxfam,
Saferworld,
33-34 Alfred Place, WC1.
July 30.

From Lord Jakobovits

Sir, The squib of Britain's new "ethical" foreign policy, heralded with such bravado, turns out to be rather damp. To prevent arms supplies being used for internal oppression is but one aspect of the moral challenge.

The ultimate evil is surely the arms trade at large. Since the Second World War, no one has died through the proliferation of atomic weapons. But millions, tens of millions, have per-

ished through conventional arms peddled by the world's great arms producers.

Worse still, the arms trade has ruined the economies of scores of nations which have spent their scarce resources on buying arms rather than on growing crops or on investing in trade and self-sufficiency. Thus does the arms trade cause wars, famine, and poverty, sinking potentially prosperous lands into utter destitution.

One always hears two arguments to justify the curse of the arms trade. If we did not sell the arms, others would; and our own armaments industry depends on these sales. According to the first, you might as well encourage the Government to push drugs. As to the second, it is never moral to help kill others in order to save your own life, let alone to advance your economy.

Let Britain pioneer universal agreement to ban the sale and shipment of arms, gradually transforming the vast investment of money and brainpower to better medical or educational care. If we cannot overnight beat our swords into ploughshares, we can make an immediate start by putting a strict arms control on the international agenda as a key to saving and improving countless millions of lives.

Yours sincerely,
JAKOBOVITS,
House of Lords,
July 30.

Plight of detainee

From Mrs Annie Anderson

Sir, Mr Mario Carneiro's plight as an asylum-seeker held in Winslow Green Prison, Birmingham, under the Immigration Act (letter, July 29) is unacceptable.

In 1994 the Home Office agreed that an inner-city prison was an inappropriate place to hold detainees. Additional accommodation was created in detention centres and since then detainees have no longer been held at Pentonville, north London.

Winslow Green or Pentonville — the principle remains the same.

Yours faithfully,
ANNIE ANDERSON
(Chairman, Board of Visitors,
HMP Pentonville, 1993-96),
2 Barnsbury Terrace, N1.
July 29.

Hong Kong officials

From the Secretary for the Civil Service, Hong Kong

Sir, Jonathan Miskin's comments in his report headed "HK shuffle ordered by Beijing" (July 29, later editions), are somewhat misplaced.

Article 48 (5) of the Basic Law (Hong Kong's "mini-constitution") specifies that all principal officials are nominated by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) and appointed by the Central People's Government of China (CPG).

What happened was exactly that. The Chief Executive made the nominations, which were then accepted by the CPG. The announcements were made by both Beijing and Hong Kong on the same day (July 28).

The reason for the time gap of about 50 minutes between the two announcements was the fact that Hong Kong's statement was much more detailed. We had not synchronised the timing of both announcements to the minute.

The respective powers of the CPG and HKSARG in this area are defined clearly in the Basic Law and are well understood in Hong Kong.

Mr Miskin's contention that "Beijing publicly humiliated the Hong Kong Government" and that "this new demonstration of where ultimate power lies in Hong Kong affairs will alarm people here" are unfounded.

Yours sincerely,
W. K. LAM,
Secretary for the Civil Service,
Central Government Offices,
Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong.
July 30.

Radio 3 changes

From Captain M. R. Hare, RN

Sir, I am astonished at the volume and venom of your correspondents' criticisms of Radio 3's policy and performance (letters, July 24, 26).

I have no less pleasure now, listening to Radio 3, than I did nearly fifty years ago when I first heard the Third Programme. Whether or not catchy titles are given to programmes seems to me to be of minimum importance: it is the content which matters and it seems to me that pure enjoyment has never been available in such copious measure as now.

Be heartened, Mr Kenyon — not all your listeners are critics who hark back to some golden age which never really existed.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL HARE,
Pathways, 19 Beatty Drive,
Alverstoke, Gosport, Hampshire.
July 26.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

PoWs decry 'bitter blow' of lost pay

From Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Spooner and others

Sir, The announcement (report, July 25) that some 14,000 Second World War veterans who were held in German and Italian prison camps will receive not one penny of the lost pay due to them comes as a bitter blow. The decision by civil servants (Ministry of Defence historians), most of whom were probably unborn when we were languishing in captivity, seems to us arbitrary and capricious.

Not having read their lengthy review, we can only surmise that the findings turn on our collective inability to prove conclusively that we never received the full (or in some cases any) camp pay from our captors, and which was thus wrongfully deducted from our home pay.

Pathetically, the Government and their mandarins hide behind the excuse that all the pay records were destroyed after six years. The onus for doing this devolves squarely on the Government of the day, and for veterans to suffer as a result of such gross incompetence is totally unjust.

Perhaps the bitter truth is that the Second World War is ancient history, and therefore of little consequence, to the ministers and mandarins who control our destinies. They have allowed this matter to drag on interminably, well aware that the problem will be solved by the law of natural attrition.

For Mr John Speller, the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, to say that "those people who have had their hopes raised will be very disappointed" (surely the understatement of the year) only adds insult to injury. For many the financial loss will be distressing, for us all the question of principle is of paramount concern.

Justice and fair play were once watchwords of the British ethic, but faceless British bureaucrats have ducked their duty. Now, we feel, is the time to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights to administer the justice due to those who fought for freedom all those years ago.

We are, Sir, yours sincerely,
A. P. SPOONER
(PoW, Italy, 1942-43),
DESMOND BUCHANAN
(PoW, Italy, 1942-43),
TONY DAVIES
(PoW, Italy/Germany, 1942-43),
MICHAEL GILBERT
(PoW, Italy, 1943),
ERIC NEWBY
(PoW, Italy/Germany, 1942-43),
22 Broadwater Rise,
Guildford, Surrey,
July 29.

Word perfect

From Mr Ted Whybrow

Sir, Mr Kevin Grant's new term "nincompute" (letter, July 30) is to be welcomed, but he seems to use it to describe someone with an extreme form of "incompetence".

Does it not better describe those individuals whose working and social lives are wholly dominated by webs, modems and their like?

Yours faithfully,
TED WHYBROW,
31 Hanover Gardens, SE11.
July 30.

From Mr John Gudgeon

Sir, As the French call the computer *l'ordinateur*, why not "ordinate" or "inordinate" for those who understand them or don't?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN GUDGEON,
2 Clackclose Road,
Downham Market, Norfolk.
July 30.

A roof for the dome

From Mr Len Evans

Sir, I gather that there is a problem in covering the proposed millennium dome with PVC (letter, July 31).

This could be solved by using the best rural practice and covering the dome with grass or reeds. It would also make good use of the skills of unemployed thatchers who are wasting their skills elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
LEN EVANS,
25 Kilton Road, Scotter, Lincolnshire.

Sporting psalm

From the Reverend John Fletcher

Sir, Mr Anthony Bosanquet (letter, July 25) wonders if Tate and Brady's version of Psalm 42 is destined to join the ranks of the politically incorrect. Smoking restrictions may, alas, add Coverdale's prayerbook version of Psalm 150 to his list — "praise him on the strings and pipe".

However, all is not lost for Mr Bosanquet's friend, whose favourite hymn is *All things bright and beautiful*: perhaps a politically correct version of the verse about the rich man in his castle might run as follows:

The poor man in his castle,
The rich man at his gate,
The charge is £4.50
to visit the estate.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FLETCHER,
10 St Chads Road,
Chadwell Heath, Essex.
July 26.

Assistance on floods in East Europe

From the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

Sir, Your leading article today, "After the flood", claims that "the most insidious and perhaps the greatest damage will be to the political confidence, within and between Germany and its neighbours". I feel this is less than fair. On the contrary, neighbourly help across the river has been spontaneous and substantial.

Already more than DM4 million from official funds and DM12 million from private initiatives have reached Poland, as well as large amounts of equipment, machinery and technical help, including specialised materials to preserve valuable documents and cultural artefacts exposed to the floods. It is fair to say that no other European country has offered even remotely comparable assistance.

The German Red Cross has opened a centre to house flood refugees and to provide fresh water supplies in Poland. It has also launched a nationwide appeal in Germany for funds under the slogan "Neighbours in Need" to provide emergency aid in Poland. Mr Andrzej Byrt, Ambassador of Poland in Germany, has publicly stated his appreciation, saying that: "A friend in need is a friend indeed. The Germans have given us solid assistance."

The record of German willingness to put first things first and alleviate sufferings among its neighbours is there for all to see.

Yours sincerely,
JURGEN OESTERHELT,
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany,
23 Belgrave Square, SW1.
July 30.

From the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland

Sir, Writing well into the fourth week of the flooding in Poland and other Central European countries, you are right to point to the enormous toll exacted by the floods. You are also right to draw attention to the significance of intergovernmental co-operation in the region.

You are quite wrong, however, if you believe that such a flood in

Turkey and EU

From Lord Hylton

Sir, I regret that Dr David Shankland (letter, July 23) should take an optimistic view of Turkey. The reality is that civilian governments come and go, but power remains in the hands of the National Security Council, in which the Armed Forces are dominant.

As a result military solutions are sought, whether in Cyprus, northern Iraq, or against the Kurds. The internal armed conflict with the latter has lasted 13 years, leading to some 12,000 deaths, the destruction of thousands of villages and the displacement of over two-and-a-half million people.

Political parties advocating minority rights and negotiated solutions are suppressed and MPs, authors and journalists are frequently imprisoned. Conditions in police stations and prisons are bad, with torture and extra-judicial killing still widespread, in spite of cases being taken to the European Court of Human Rights.

The consequences of heavy military expenditure are inflation at nearly 80 per cent a year, massive state debts and a steadily depreciating currency. The one hope is that Turkish industry and commerce, as well as trades unions, are beginning to see the need for civilian control, the rule of law and fair treatment for minorities. I trust that their view will prevail and eventually make Turkey a proper candidate for EU membership.

Yours faithfully,
HYLTON,
House of Lords.

A fitting memorial

From the Reverend Dr Peter Jupp

Sir, A man and his family are certainly free to choose minimal funeral rites (letter, July 28). Well might an architect's children claim for him *si monumentum requiris, circumspice* in respectful echo of the tribute in St Paul's to Sir Christopher Wren, attributed to his son.

But what of those who regret the lack of a memorial or who have forgotten, or never known, where their dead may lie?

Cemetery superintendents are often contacted by members of the public searching for the lost grave of a relative. The reasons for their search are complex, private, often pressing. We all owe debts to the dead, even though they will not have expected us to honour them all.

At present, death certificates contain no details about the funeral which might help descendants to seek lost graves. After the funeral, the Registrar of Deaths is always provided with information about the date of the funeral, the mode of disposal of the body and the cemetery or crematorium involved. Future printings of the Registrar's forms could easily provide space to record this information.

We make this recommendation in our *Dead Citizens* Charter.

Yours faithfully,
PETER C. JUPP
(Director),
The National Funerals College,
Braddon House, High Street,
Duddington, Stamford, Lincolnshire.
July 28.

riener Jerome, who *also* had some experience of the difficulty of adapting novels by the Brontës was the stage found that Jane Eyre was no exception.

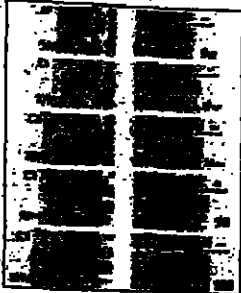
conveniently, and in a sense effectively, represented on the stage, but they will not, for players who are also novel readers, necessarily represent "Jane Eyre."

Miss Helen Jerome has so triumphed where others have failed. She has not distilled sufficient poetry to light up character drawing which is rarely more than vigorous and elementary; she has found no substitute for the dark and lonely landscape which in the novel seems to purge melodrama of half its crudity; nor has she found it possible to turn into dialogue anything of Jane's own analysis of her passionate and romantic temperament. She has not, in short, done for Charlotte

name to the play. They share the stage, and he is perhaps the more interesting of the two, for Miss Jerome and Miss Curwen have chosen their contrive to make of him a more persuasive character than the Brontë Rochester. His brutality is there, but it has been transposed to the more realistic scene, and as Mr. Tate brilliantly represents him he is a sharp-tongued ironist with a conscience and a sense of the enormity of his own crime. As a subterranean figure, and unskillfully played, might be no more than a conventional heroine. Miss Curwen Lewis, discovering emotional delicacy where there is no depth, is still grave, and not too quaint. In a performance remarkable for restraint and quiet exuberance, there has been the burden of a play which, judged as an adaptation, is unsuccessful, but as a romance is a seriously successful mingling of strong drama and charm.

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bridge Atlantic
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right notes with
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halve drug bans
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY AUGUST 1 1997

US bank acquires DSS buildings for £400m

By CARL MORTISHED

THE Department of Social Security is to sell its entire property portfolio, worth £400 million, to Partnership Property Management (PPM), a consortium led by Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank.

The Private Finance Initiative project, known as Prime, was conceived by the last Government and given the go-ahead yesterday by Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security. It is the largest single real estate transaction in the UK, covering more than 17 million sq ft in more than 700 buildings.

PPM was chosen from a shortlist of two bidders. Its rival being Mapeley Holdings, a group that includes Nations Bank and Burford, the property company. PPM comprises the Whitehall Street Real Estate Partnership, a fund run by Goldman Sachs, Amec, the builder, Berkeley Group, the developer, Vines Management, Compass Management and Richard Ellis, the surveyors.

Prime is expected to be followed by similar government property deals. Deloitte & Touche, which advised the DSS on this transaction, is working on a proposal for a £2.5 billion private finance scheme covering 450 properties for the Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise. A competition is underway to redevelop the Chelsea Barracks into residential housing. Prime could revolutionise the way the property industry does business, with major public companies seeking similar deals. Manish Chande, chief executive of Prime, said: "We do intend to become a substantial business and bid for other projects."

The deal marks the first contract in the DSS's Change programme to be awarded since Labour came to power. In the next few days, Ms Harman is expected to invite final bids for its Impact contract, which will privatise medical services for the Benefits Agency. Four consortia, including teams led by Andersen Consulting and Capita Group, are in line for the process, which is worth in excess of £500 million.

Ms Harman is also expected to drop the privatisation of the child benefit distribution system - Prospect - although there will be a new scheme to computerise the service. Projects involving small computer systems and the use of outside consultants are also expected to be approved.

The DSS, which employs

95,000 staff and has a budget of £85 billion, is the largest owner of government property, accounting for 16 per cent of the civil portfolio. The DSS's freeholds and long leasehold interests are being sold to PPM for £250 million. In addition, PPM will supply the DSS with serviced accommodation under a 20-year contract for a fixed fee that will be linked to inflation indices.

Unlike a conventional property lease, PPM will supply the DSS with maintenance, heating, lighting and air-conditioning, cleaning, security, catering and landscape maintenance. It will also allow the DSS to quit buildings at short notice.

John Mason, head of the DSS Prime project, said the Government had three objectives: get the department out of the property business; drive down costs; and obtain more flexibility. He said there would be no job losses linked to the property sale, with staff transferring to the supplier.

The details of the contract have yet to be agreed but he expects the Government to achieve significant savings on the DSS's occupation costs, which exceed £350 million a year. Negotiations are expected to lead to a full contract by the year end, with the handover on April 1 next year.

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David Clementi, far left, and Mervyn King, far right, with Gordon Brown and Eddie George yesterday after their appointments were announced

Insider to be Deputy Governor

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MERVYN KING was yesterday named as the new Deputy Governor of the Bank of England responsible for monetary stability, ending months of speculation that Gavin Davies would be awarded the job.

The Government also confirmed that David Clementi, vice chairman of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, would become Deputy Governor for financial stability, effectively acting as chief executive of the Bank.

Mr King, who is currently chief economist at the Bank, was the main internal candidate for the new post. A former

academic at the London School of Economics, he has been at the Bank for seven years and is regarded as hawkish on inflation.

The City welcomed the appointments, which economists believe will strengthen the Bank's independence. They will do little to alter the perceived hawkish bias on the Bank's monetary policy committee, which sets interest rates.

Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Citibank, said: "Both men are widely respected in the City. The appointments tilt the majority on the monetary policy committee slightly further in the

favour of Bank insiders." The promotion of Mr King is also likely to end rumours that Mr Davies, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs, is being lined up to take over as Governor when Mr George's contract expires next year.

Economists said it is almost unfeasible that the Government would catapult Mr Davies into the top post without giving him time to learn the ropes at the Bank.

The City had expressed concern that the appointment of Mr Davies to a senior position could undermine the Bank's newly won independence. Mr

Davies is a close adviser to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sue Nye, his wife, is chief of staff in Mr Brown's office.

The City now believes it is likely Mr George will win an extension to his contract, even if he chooses not to serve another full five-year term. Mr King's promotion leaves him in a strong position to become Mr George's successor.

Mr King will not formally take up his post until enabling legislation is passed in the autumn, although he will continue to serve on the monetary policy committee which meets

again next week, when it is expected to raise interest rates a further quarter point. Mr Clementi will take up his post at the beginning of September.

The Bank will now begin the search for a replacement to Mr King as director of economics, a position that also carries a place on the monetary policy committee. Andrew Dilnot, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and Charles Bean, professor of economics at the LSE, were last night being tipped as possible candidates.

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Capital bid for Virgin transmitted to MMC

By JASON NISSE

NIGEL GRIFFITHS, the Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, yesterday referred Capital Radio's controversial bid for Richard Branson's Virgin Radio to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The £64.7 million offer, roundly attacked within the radio industry, was waived through by the Radio Authority, the industry regulator, last month. But John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, decided that the bid would give Capital a dominant share of the market for radio advertising in London, and recommended referral. The MMC is due to report in November.

Virgin won a national AM licence four years ago and was awarded the London FM franchise

two years later after saying that it needed the extra licence to make the AM franchise work. Bringing Virgin and Capital together would give them a combined 43 per cent share of the audience for radio in London and 62.7 per cent of the advertising of leading brands in the capital.

However, David Mansfield, who takes over as Capital's chief executive in October, had vowed to disband Capital's media-selling organisation, which will cut its dominant position in the advertising market. He said buying Virgin was essential for the development of digital commercial radio, which Capital wants to launch on Virgin's national AM franchise.

Capital and Virgin said yesterday they thought the bid

raised no competition issues. Will Whitehorn, a director of Virgin, said: "For the OFT to refer this to the MMC, but handle the BA/American deal with kid gloves, is amazing."

However, rival radio operators welcomed the move. Chris Perry, chief executive of XFM, the alternative rock station launching next month, said: "This is a great day for radio. I have never been comfortable with this bid, which would have brought Capital back up to the extremely powerful position it held until the mid-1980s."

The MMC ruling will show whether any further consolidation of the radio market will be allowed, with the expectation that some of the larger radio stations in the big regional cities may merge.

ICL to put Tube in smartcard age

By JASON NISSE

LONDON TRANSPORT will today announce that it has awarded a Private Finance Initiative project to replace bus and Underground tickets with new smartcards to a consortium led by ICL, the computer group, and EDS, the Texas consultancy.

The award of the contract, called Prestige and believed to be worth more than £500 million, comes at the end of a complex two-year tendering process that has led to the project being more than six months late.

The ICL/EDS team includes Cubic Corporation and WS Atkins and is called TransSys. It was the only bidder left after the withdrawal of three other groups, one led by IBM, another by BT and the third made up of

Oliveri, Andersen Consulting, KPMG and National Express. TransSys has vowed to revolutionise people's travel to work. Instead of the current paper tickets that are put through machines that operate the barriers on the Tube network, there will be plastic cards with computer chips that will be scanned in the same way tills operate in supermarkets.

London Underground hopes that the smartcards will speed up ticket sales, cut fraud and improve information about customer travel patterns.

The Prestige project was caught up in the excessive bureaucracy that has dogged the PFI and its award will come as a great relief to both the Treasury and the Department of Transport.

City angry at BT's silence over MCI merger

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



No details: Sir Iain Vallance, left, and Peter Bonfield

SIR PETER BONFIELD, chief executive of BT, further angered the City by maintaining a wall of silence over the company's troubled £12 billion merger with MCI, the US telecoms company.

Sir Peter yesterday refused to reveal details of the review that BT started after MCI's profits warning early this month, although he acknowledged that institutional investors have told BT they had lost confidence in its management.

Analysts and investors had expected news of the review with yesterday's publication of first-quarter results. But the

reluctance to calm the increasing clamour for information triggered fresh frustration and further trimmed BT's share price. It fell 4p to 426 1/2p. More than £5 billion has been wiped from the company's value since the profits warning threw into doubt the wisdom of the MCI merger.

Sir Peter declined to say what price negotiations were under way or even how much scope there is to redraft the contract. He said the deal is a complex merger arrangement that is "interpreted by lawyers, but we are looking at the whole situation and the

contract is part of that". Sir Peter indicated that everything was on the table in the joint review which could be complete by the end of this month or early next month.

Sir Peter conceded that institutions had warned the company of a loss of confidence. He said: "Some of them have certainly said that." He said he could "understand their concern", but he denied he had considered resigning over the issue.

It is possible that MCI could counter any price negotiation by saying BT, whose chairman is Sir Iain Vallance,

is less robust itself after changes to advance corporation tax and imposition of the windfall tax.

Richard Jones, telecoms analyst with Yamaichi, said: "This is very frustrating for everyone. We don't know what they are trying to renegotiate or even if they can or can't renegotiate." Mr Jones predicted another slump in the share price when the stock goes ex-dividend in a couple of weeks.

BT's pre-tax profits for the first quarter climbed 1.4 per cent to £881 million.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

| | | |
|----------------|----------|-----------|
| FTSE 100 | 4907.5 | (-19.5) |
| FTSE All share | 2295.18 | (-5.99) |
| Nikkei | 20331.43 | (+118.61) |
| New York | 8247.46 | (-7.43)* |
| Dow Jones | 193.88 | (108.05) |
| S&P Composite | 953.24 | (+0.95)* |

US RATE

| | | |
|---------------|---------|-----------|
| Federal Funds | 5 1/4% | (5 1/4%) |
| Long Bond | 10 1/4% | (10 1/4%) |
| Yield | 6.32% | (6.33%) |

LONDON MONEY

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| 3-month interbank | 7 1/4% | (7 1/4%) |
| Libor long gilt | 11 1/2% | (11 1/2%) |

STERLING

| | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| New York | 1.6413* | (1.6285) |
| London | 1.6375 | (1.6323) |
| DM | 3.0077 | (2.9996) |
| FF | 10.1400 | (10.1010) |
| Sfr | 2.4761 | (2.4767) |
| Yen | 193.88 | (193.85) |
| £ Index | 104.6 | (104.3) |

DOLLAR

| | | |
|---------|---------|----------|
| London | 1.8400* | (1.8365) |
| DM | 6.2025* | (6.1935) |
| Sfr | 1.5138* | (1.5125) |
| Yen | 118.32* | (118.43) |
| £ Index | 105.8 | (105.7) |

NORTH SEA OIL

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Brent 15-day (Oct) | \$18.65 | (\$18.95) |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|

GOLD

| | | |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| London close | \$325.05 | (\$326.65) |
|--------------|----------|------------|

* denotes midday trading price

Takeovers

TI Group wants to spend up to £400 million on acquisitions by next March. The engineering and aerospace company said a number of deals were under negotiation but ruled out a move to diversify beyond existing activities. Page 23

Drug boost

Rapidly rising sales of treatments for HIV, migraine and asthma will enable Glaxo Wellcome to overcome the loss of patent on its biggest selling drug and achieve earnings targets, the pharmaceuticals giant claimed. Page 22



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Who's in and who's out at the Bank of England

A tall, stooped figure, David Clement could be an Oxford don, and an expert in something deeply esoteric to boot, as one of the leading investment bankers of his generation. While most corporate financiers tend to be brash, domineering figures, he comes over as mild-mannered and reserved, even shy.

But there is no mistaking his ability. He made his name in the previous Government's privatisation programme, having worked on the first of these, the 1984 sale of British Telecom shares, and then on other big share issues such as British Gas.

Mr Clement, who was schooled at Winchester, trained as a chartered accountant, after reading politics, philosophy and economics at Lincoln College, Oxford. At Oxford he gained a reputation as an athlete. A contemporary article in *The Times* named him the star of the Varsity freshmen's athletics match, where he was unbeaten in the 100m, 200m and 400m hurdles events.

He went on to get a Blue in athletics three years in a row and hurdled for Britain as a member of the 1963 junior international athletics team. These days his most strenuous exercise is sailing, a love he shares with Eddie George, the Bank Governor.

Mr Clement has the knack of inspiring loyalty in his subordinates and values it in others. He was known to have been upset at the abrupt departure of a colleague, Simon Robertson, formerly chairman of Kleinwort Benson. Mr Robertson left earlier this year after a row with Dresdner Bank. Kleinwort's

DAVID CLEMENT



German owner. But insiders at Kleinwort insist this is not the reason he has accepted the Bank's offer. Instead, he is thought to regard it as a significant advancement in his career in banking, especially if he eventually succeeds Mr George.

Says a former colleague: "He's much more pragmatic than many merchant bankers. You didn't have to sit through two or three-hour debating meetings. He could look at the forest and pick out the trees, which was extremely important."

"If you are stuck in the proverbial trench, who would you like to have at your back? He would be top of my list."

MARTIN WALLER

Gavyn Davies, head of international economics at Goldman Sachs, was floated as a candidate for Deputy Governor as soon as the Bank reforms were unveiled shortly after the election, and was considered likely to succeed Eddie George as Governor.

But his Labour links seem ultimately to have been the stumbling block to his appointment to the Bank. For all his economic expertise, there were fears his appointment to a senior position at the Bank would be seen to undermine the Old Lady's newly won independence. There was also a hint that Eddie George and Mervyn King had objected to the idea that Mr Davies could be guaranteed the promotion to the Governor's job long before Mr George's contract expires next year.

Alongside Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News & Media, he was a high-profile Labour supporter in the City at a time when the Labour Party was desperate to attract City and business talent into the Government. His links with the party stretch back to a stint in the No 10 policy unit in the final days of the Callaghan Government. More recently, he has acted as an informal adviser to Mr Brown while his wife, Sue Nye, is in charge of Mr Brown's office.

There is no doubt Mr Davies will still want to serve the Government in some form. His position as a partner of Goldman Sachs has ensured he is one of the highest paid economists in the City. But colleagues insist that money is not

GAVYN DAVIES



an issue, suggesting that he has already made more than enough to enjoy a comfortable future. After all, this was the man who could afford to spend several million on a new home in Devon after pouring millions into the now defunct *Sunday Correspondent* newspaper.

Mr Davies could well take a post on the new Council of Economic Advisers, which is expected to be unveiled in the next couple of months — a position that he may be able to hold part-time. But for the moment, Mr Davies remains silent about his options, far happier talking about the prospects for his beloved Southampton Football Club.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Mervyn King's promotion to Deputy Governor of the Bank of England establishes him as the favourite to take over the governorship from Eddie George. At 49, he is almost ten years younger than Mr George and is probably prepared to wait should Mr George win an extension to his contract next year.

Mr King seems to possess most of the requisite skills for the Governor's post, now the Bank has won sole responsibility for setting monetary policy. He is widely respected in the City, where he has a reputation second only to Mr George as an inflation hawk.

His academic background ensures that he has the technical expertise which, as Mr George explained to the Treasury Select Committee last week, is now a vital requirement for members of the monetary policy committee.

But Mr King is also a skilled media performer who provides a slick and entertaining presentation to accompany the publication of the Bank's rather austere *Quarterly Inflation Report*. The ability to sell often controversial interest rate movements to City and country will be an increasingly important part of the Governor's job in the future.

Mr King joined the Bank in 1990 from the London School of Economics, where he had established his reputation as a tax specialist. His radical ideas on simplifying the income tax structure were used by Nigel Lawson as the basis for the 1988 Budget, while he also provided much of the early thinking behind the creation of tax

MERVYN KING



exempt special savings account (Tessa). Mr King is an avid Aston Villa fan, despite having gone to school in neighbouring Wolverhampton. His hopes of becoming a non-executive director of Aston Villa were vetoed by Mr George, a rugby fan, although he has taken the position of vice-president. Mr King, who lives in Notting Hill, West London, joked yesterday that he would like to spend more time pursuing his other interests — including music, tennis and reading European History — which he did "regularly" before the inflation target was introduced.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Worry over Airbus's date for unification

By OLIVER AUGUST

AIRBUS, the European consortium that includes British Aerospace, is likely to miss its 1999 deadline for becoming a single corporate entity, according to Jürgen Schrempp, the Daimler-Benz chairman.

In January, the four Airbus partners signed a memorandum of understanding scheduling a transfer of ownership for 1999, but the election of a Socialist Government in France in May has called the future of the aircraft maker into question.

Herr Schrempp said: "Airbus will attain company status, but I cannot tell you when. I am not sure it will happen in 1999."

The new French Government and Aérospatiale, the Airbus partner in which it has a controlling stake, have retracted two concessions made in January. Aérospatiale is refusing to transfer assets to Airbus as agreed in the memorandum.

The French Government has also halted privatisation of Aérospatiale, which is a prerequisite to creating a single corporate entity, according to BAe and Daimler. Herr Schrempp said: "I am a believer in private companies, not in state-controlled companies."

BAe said: "It is possible that the deadline might slip."

Glaxo Wellcome nurses hefty decline in shares

By PAUL DURMAN

RAPIDLY rising sales of treatments for HIV, migraine and asthma will enable Glaxo Wellcome to overcome the loss of patent protection on its biggest selling drug and achieve earnings targets for the next three years, the company claimed yesterday.

But the group's upbeat presentation of half-year results was not enough to prevent its shares falling 38p to 129½p as the City responded to a warning that profit margins would fall this year.

The company reported a 2 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits, to £152 billion, on sales of £4.1 billion. It said the impact of the strong pound obscured its progress, and that underlying sales grew 8 per cent.

Glaxo Wellcome gave warning that margins will fall from 37.5 per cent to around 35 per cent this year, largely because of the increased marketing costs of new products such as Zytan, an anti-smoking drug, and Naramig, a migraine treatment.

The company is enjoying an unexpected boost from the complex legal disputes among the companies that intend to produce an unbranded rival to Zantac, the ulcer drug that lost its US patent protection last



Sir Richard Sykes, left, chairman, and John Coombe, finance director, yesterday

week. The disputes have so far prevented the appearance of a competitor to Zantac, enabling Glaxo Wellcome to continue selling \$5 million (£3 million) of the drug each day.

Novopharm, a Canadian company, had a deal with Glaxo Wellcome that it hoped would allow it to start selling the first generic version three weeks ago, but it was blocked by a last-minute legal intervention. Genpharm also claims exclusive rights to the

first generic version. The loss of Zantac's patent protection in the UK and Germany contributed to a 12 per cent fall in its sales, to £199 million. However, Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo Wellcome's chairman and chief executive, said the £891 million of sales respiratory drugs, including Serenit, Flitoxide and Ventolin, meant this had now replaced gastro-intestinal as the company's biggest therapeutic area. Zantac represented

43 per cent of group sales as recently as 1994. Sir Richard said EpiVir, the anti-HIV drug, had more than doubled sales, to £199 million, and was "one of the fastest growing products that we've ever had".

Glaxo Wellcome is paying an interim dividend of 15p a share — unchanged because of its intention to rebalance the interim and final payments. It will be paid as a foreign income dividend.

UK faces gruelling contest for Toyota

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN is competing with ten other European countries for Toyota's new manufacturing plant, the Japanese car company said yesterday.

Toyota's statement on the number of EU member states battling for the company's planned new production centre for its small European car is the first indication of the daunting scale of the fight the Government, local authorities and component supply businesses in the UK have to secure what will be one of Europe's key inward investment prizes.

Toyota is planning to build a European factory to make its high-volume small car specifically designed for Europe.

Yesterday, Iwao Okijima, Toyota's executive vice-president, said: "There are more than 10 countries from which we have received invitations" to site the new plant. Mr Okijima said that the company was carrying out detailed studies of the cost of each proposal, taking into account infrastructure such as transport, the quality of the workforce and the "welcome" each country would give to the new plant.

Toyota is looking at more than 30 sites in Europe for its plant, which will add to the factory at Burnaston, in Derbyshire, and its engine plant in North Wales. Toyota managers visited Burnaston yesterday.

Toyota wants to sell 600,000 vehicles in Europe, boosting its market share by a third, as part of plans to push its overall sales worldwide from 4.9 million now to 6 million by the start of the next century. Toyota sold 412,000 vehicles in Europe last year, and plans to sell 450,000 this year.

The Toyota plant at Burnaston is set to receive new investment, which will raise its capacity to 220,000 cars annually. Capacity at its engine plant is set to double over the next few years.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Doulton cuts jobs

ROYAL DOULTON, the china company, is to shed 330 jobs in Stoke-on-Trent. The company blamed the cuts on difficult trading conditions created by the strong pound.

Royal Doulton currently employs some 4,800 people around Stoke and about 7,000 worldwide. Patrick Wenger, chief executive, said: "The strong pound has created a difficult worldwide trading climate and it is essential that we aim to keep production, sales and stocks in balance." More redundancies are likely.

Volvo sells Renault stake

VOLVO, the Swedish auto manufacturer, has sold its 11 per cent stake in Renault, the French vehicle maker, for £500 million. The shares were bought by UBS, which will sell them on to institutional investors. Volvo's stake was the legacy of a failed merger attempt in 1993. Since 1994, Volvo has pursued a divestment programme that has so far raised more than £35 billion. Some of the money has been spent on share buybacks and research and development to freshen Volvo's image.

BIC acquires Sheaffer

BIC, the French ball-point pen company, has acquired Sheaffer, the US pen manufacturer, for an undisclosed sum. The deal to buy Sheaffer, which has annual sales of more than \$30 million (£30 million), is the latest in a series of BIC acquisitions. Last October it bought A. Hausser, the German felt-tip pen maker. Bruno Bich, the BIC chairman, said: "Sheaffer is a world-renowned brand, synonymous with high quality writing instruments."

Fund manager is sold

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT, the life insurer, has agreed to sell Prolific, its investment management subsidiary, to Aberdeen Asset Management, in return for a 41 per cent stake in the company. Aberdeen is issuing 58.4 million new shares to pay for the deal, which values Prolific at £55.5 million. The move nearly trebles Aberdeen's funds under management to £11 billion. This includes £7.2 billion of ScottPro's life and unit-linked funds. Aberdeen shares rose 12p, to 107p.

BTR's Brazilian deal

HAWKER, BTR's batteries business, is expanding into South America by paying \$72 million (£43.9 million) for the industrial batteries division of Microlite, a Brazilian company. BTR said the acquisition of Microlite would give the group, a commanding presence in South America's last-growth market, with a local manufacturing operation. The company will trade as Saturna Hawker Sistemas de Energia. Hawker was acquired as part of Hawker Siddeley in 1991.

Berisford buys in Spain

BERISFORD, the engineering group, is to pay £21.8 million cash for Sammic, Spain's leading food service equipment manufacturer. However, up to £2 million of the price is to be deferred until June 1998 and depends on profit performance. Berisford will, however, assume a net cash balance of £5 million. Sammic has eight distribution branches throughout Spain and made a pre-tax profit of £2.6 million from turnover of £12.6 million.

REWARDING TIMES

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Employers face £10bn bill as Europe rules on pensions

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE prospect of UK employers having to pay a £10 billion pensions bill to their part-time workers has moved a step closer after a provisional ruling in the European Court of Justice.

The advocate-general of the court has expressed an opinion that part-time workers' pensions should be backdated to April 8, 1976. This would initially affect 100,000 cases. British law currently allows

pensions claims from part-time workers to be backdated for two years previous to the date of the claim.

The majority of cases are in health service and local authority schemes, although other big part-time employers, including supermarkets and retail chains, would also be affected.

In response to the news of the ruling, reported in today's issue of *Pensions Week*, union leaders hailed the advocate-

general's comments as a victory for part-time workers, who are mostly women, and those who have fought for their rights. The advocate-general said no national law should prevent the rights from being retrospective to 1976.

The National Association of Pension Funds said it would be "disappointed" if the opinion were adopted by the European Court when the issue is reviewed in autumn.

Mystery bid approach lights up Ronson price

By JASON NISSE

SHARES in Ronson rose 2½p to 21p after the troubled lighter maker revealed that it had received a bid approach.

Sean Dowling, chairman, refused to disclose the bidder's identity but Howard Hodgson, who was fired as chief executive in June, ruled himself out of the running.

Mr Hodgson said: "I don't know who it is, genuinely. I don't know... at the moment, I'm

stepping away." He is known to have made an approach to Albion Fund, Ronson's largest shareholder, offering to buy its 17.7 per cent stake.

Mr Hodgson and Christine Pickles, his girlfriend, who was dismissed as corporate development director, are suing Ronson for £500,000 compensation for loss of office.

Mr Dowling said Ronson may sue Mr Hodgson in turn.

TOURIST RATES

| Bank | Bank | Bank | Bank |
|--------------|--------|-----------------|---------|
| Sells | Buy | Sells | Buy |
| Australia \$ | 2.30 | Malta | 0.825 |
| Austria Sch | 22.10 | Netherlands Gld | 3.571 |
| Belgium Fr | 55.16 | New Zealand \$ | 2.58 |
| Canada \$ | 2.389 | Norway Kr | 13.08 |
| Cyprus Cyp | 0.824 | Portugal Esc | 315.53 |
| Denmark Kr | 12.08 | S Africa R | 8.26 |
| France Fr | 9.81 | Spain Ptas | 264.79 |
| Germany Dr | 3.17 | Sweden Kr | 13.58 |
| Greece Dr | 496 | Switzerland Fr | 2.63 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 13.67 | Turkey Lira | 270.757 |
| Ireland Pt | 127 | USA \$ | 1.744 |
| Italy Lira | 1.18 | Yen | 1.021 |
| Japan Yen | 208.63 | | |

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

AVS International Limited
In Administrative Receivership
Notice is hereby given that the
Administrative Receivers of the
above named company, AVS
International Limited, have been
appointed by the Court of
Bankruptcy, and that the
company is now in the hands of
the Receivers. The Receivers
are Messrs. J. & J. Morgan,
Chartered Accountants, of 15
Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.
The Receivers are acting as
Administrative Receivers of the
company, and are not to be
held responsible for the
company's debts or liabilities.
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Administrative Receivers of the
company, and are not to be
held responsible for the
company's debts or liabilities.
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Administrative Receivers of the
company, and are not to be
held responsible for the
company's debts or liabilities.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given that
the Trustee of the above
named company, AVS
International Limited, has been
appointed by the Court of
Bankruptcy, and that the
company is now in the hands of
the Trustee. The Trustee is
Messrs. J. & J. Morgan,
Chartered Accountants, of 15
Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.
The Trustee is acting as
Trustee of the company, and
is not to be held responsible
for the company's debts or
liabilities. The Trustee is acting
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liabilities. The Trustee is acting
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for the company's debts or
liabilities.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE is hereby given that
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AVS International Limited,
has been placed into
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The Administrative Receivers
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company's debts or liabilities.

Prime candidates for disposal

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Welcome to the great government sell-off. Gold-
man Sachs may be the
proud new owner of a motley
portfolio of properties inhabited
by the Department of Social
Security, but there are many
more ugly offices still to come.

The estimate is that by the year
2001, around 65 per cent of the
government estate could have
been "primed", as this variation of
privatisation is now to be known.

The Inland Revenue will be
one of the first to follow the DSS.
A feasibility study has just been
completed into the prospects for
disposing of its vast portfolio and
optimists are talking about a
cheque for £500 million soon
heading towards the tax man to
be used for the less rounded results
of self-assessment. There can be
little doubt that the change at the
Revenue will be better employed
looking after 550 assorted build-
ings which comprise some 14
million square feet of space. And
after the Revenue, Customs &
Excise should not be far behind.

There is also a large tranche of
Cheltenham which could soon be
seeking buyers. Although we can
only guess what goes on there,
GCHQ takes up 117 acres of the
estate town and an imaginative
developer could certainly provide
the spies with a more salubrious
working environment than they
currently have on the site.

If the bonus-conscious part-
ners of Goldman see money to be
made from taking over gov-

ernment properties, it is to be
expected that the sums do indeed
look enticing. Enthusiasm for
"priming" is growing, and some
high powered consortia are tak-
ing shape to bid for the next
contracts.

The property market is gain-
ing strength at the moment, and
investors are realising that there
are enticing yields to be had from
those buildings which are dis-
paragingly denounced as sec-
ondary by honest estate agents.

The attractions of each deal
will vary, depending on the split
between freehold and leasehold
sites and the scope for develop-
ment. The Chelsea Pensioners
could find themselves set flying
as spivvy types in pinstripes
make a dash for the chance of
turning a unique central London
site into new and expensive
housing.

But the question which has yet
to be determined is how the
Government will account for all
the extra cash which could come
rolling in as it allows others to
assume the responsibility of land-
lord. Resort to off-balance sheet
funding takes government into
dangerous areas. The proceeds
cannot simply be allowed to flow
through into helping the Govern-
ment balance its public spending

ideals with its budgetary con-
straints.

The accountants in Brussels
are keeping a careful watch on
how the proceeds of priming are
to be handled, for they still have
their eyes fixed on the Maastricht
criteria even if few in Britain are
now focusing on those demands.

There will be no chance of the
British Government doing with
its unloved offices what Herr
Kohl was prevented from doing
with Germany's gold reserves.

Still no answer from BT

The board of BT continues
to demonstrate a breath-
taking disregard for the
sensibilities of its shareholders.
Yesterday it refused to give any
indication whether it was able to
renegotiate the terms of its deal
with MCI or whether it would
press on with shelling out £12
billion of investors' money on a

business which in chaos. Sir Iain
Vallance and Sir Peter Bonfield
may feel that a blithe assurance
that they remain supportive of
MCI's strategy should be enough
to send shareholders happy to
their beds, but they are very
much mistaken, as the contin-
uing downward spiral of the BT
share price demonstrates.

Given the scale of the losses
that MCI has now indicated it
faces, one can understand why
the swashbuckling individuals
who had created the business
were so easily seduced by BT's
generosity. But the fact that Bert
Roberts and his colleagues,
apparently men of individual
spirit, suddenly succumbed to the
charms, and cheque books, of
Sir Iain and Sir Peter might have
raised a few quibbles with BT.

The original deal, which gave
BT a 20 per cent stake in MCI,
made sense. The arrangement
should also have put BT in a
position to learn more about the
US market and its new partner.

Yet the opposite appears to have
been the case. MCI is losing out
on its core long-distance business
while haemorrhaging dreadfully as
it tries to break into the local
market, but the news has hit BT
out of the blue.

As BT's own figures yesterday
showed, the company does need
to look outside the UK for
continued growth, but not at any
price. But the motives behind the
MCI deal smack of international
empire building rather than a
move towards enhancing share-
holder value. There is a growing
view in the City that the idea
should be abandoned com-
pletely, or the price reduced
drastically.

If, as is being rumoured, BT
and its bevy of advisers has
walked into a trap from which
the small print allows no legal
escape, they should clamber
out and invite MCI to sue. The
likelihood is that the MCI
directors might rapidly come
round to the idea of a lower

price rather than none at all.

For Sir Iain Vallance, who
followed his father into the Post
Office, there may still be prob-
lems in coping with the needs of
shareholders, but if he does not
do so now, he may face a
rebellion. And pointing out that
it was Sir Peter Bonfield and not
he who has sat on the MCI board
will not save his neck.

By George, a new man for Old Lady

Congratulations are due to
Eddie George. The Gov-
ernor of the Bank of
England held his ground under
early attack from the new Gov-
ernment and now appears to
have secured his position.

Yesterday, he looked trium-
phant as he presented his two
new deputy governors, neither of
whom would be likely to chal-
lenge him if he decided, as has
been indicated, that he might like
to stay on at the Bank for another
term rather than retire to leafy
Dulwich.

The spectre of Gavyn Davies
was nowhere to be seen in
Threadneedle Street. Had all the
gossips been imagining that the
bearded millionaire economist

was destined to be the next
Governor?

Davies, to be fair, has main-
tained a public silence on the
subject throughout, but jungle
drums have rarely played more
closely to the same music sheet,
which declared that he was only
interested in being deputy if a
rapid promotion was on offer.

The likelihood is that Chan-
cellor Gordon Brown was happy
for that message to be played out
so that he could judge the
response to it. That came loud
and clear: Davies would have
been judged too close to Govern-
ment to be seen as an indepen-
dent voice at the Bank. His work
for Labour was not the only
obstacle. Even the broadest mind
would have some difficulty in
assuming he could remain com-
pletely untouched by the fact that
his partner, Sue Nye, is an
indispensable member of Mr
Brown's team.

Got a light?

HOWARD HODGSON, the dis-
missed chief executive, has ruled
himself out as the bidder for Ron-
son, the lighter company that
nearly went down in flames. So
who might want it? How about
Stephen Hinchliffe, fresh from
his courtroom victory over Price
Waterhouse. Now that he can get
his hands on his assets again, the
man behind the Facia fiasco
would have the audacity to try to
link Ronson with the Colibri
lighter business he still owns.

Confident TI to spend £400m on acquisitions

By OLIVER AUGUST

TI GROUP will spend up to
£400 million on bolt-on ac-
quisition by next March. The
engineering and aerospace
company said a number of
deals were under negotiation
but ruled out a move to
diversify beyond existing
activities.

"I reported a fall in interim
pre-tax profits to £12 million
in the six months to June 30
from £123 million in the first
half of the previous year, when
there was an exceptional gain
of £20 million.

Despite the decline in profits
the results were generally
ahead of City expectations.
However, TI shares fell 24½ p-
to 543p amid profit-taking

after the stock's recent strong
run and because of renewed
fears about the adverse impact
of the strong pound.

Martin Angle, finance direc-
tor, said the City was overesti-
mating the effect of sterling.
With operations in 45 coun-
tries TI suffers from almost
no currency "translation" ex-
posure, he said. Most profits stay
within the currencies in which
they were earned. Only when
profits are repatriated for
accounting purposes or to pay
dividends is there a transla-
tion loss.

Exchange rate movements
cost TI £7.6 million in the first
half. Similar losses can also be
expected in the second half if

sterling remains at around the
DM3 level.

Dowry, the landing gear
and aerospace systems spe-
cialist, showed a 25 per cent lift
in sales, reflecting the buoyant
mood in the aerospace sector
at the moment after several
years of slow growth.

John Crane, the mechanical
seals and polymers arm, pro-
duced a 3 per cent rise in sales
in what TI described as a
"challenging" market. The
market is still contracting, at
around 4 per cent.

Bundy Group, which man-
ufactures fluid systems for the
automotive and refrigeration
industries, saw an increase of
8 per cent.

Tim Bennett, engineering
analyst at Morgan Stanley,
said: "Aerospace was even
better than expected whilst
Crane was disappointing."

Mr Bennett said he would
probably make a slight up-
wards revision to his earnings
forecast for the group on the
back of the performance by the
aerospace business.

The interim dividend is
increased to 5.1p a share from
4.75p, due on October 7,
payable from earnings of 16.1p
a share, up 10 per cent.

Sir Christopher Lewinton,
chairman, said: "Our global
spread and balance saw the
group achieve a strong first-
half result with organic profit
growth of 15 per cent, im-
proved margins and good
cash flow. We go forward with
strong order books, are well
positioned to make further
bolt-on acquisitions and have
confidence in our ability to
generate continued growth."

Logica acquires Irish design firm

By FRASER NELSON

LOGICA, the computer ser-
vices company, is doubling
its exposure to design firms
through the acquisition of
Adisco, an Irish software
company that designs sys-
tems for mobile phones.

Logica shares, which have
plunged from £10.62 to 690p
this year, rose 60p to 750p.
The rise came in spite of the
company's £52.5 million rights
issue, whereby 9.13
million shares are being
placed with institutions at
605p apiece on a one-for-
seven basis.

Dr Martin Read, the chief
executive of Logica, said:
"The acquisition is absolutely
bang in line with our
strategy because it is in
telecoms and it will all be
value-added stuff. The com-
pany has got repeatable

sales and it's very
international."

Logica intends to offer its
clients a full range of ser-
vices, including mobile phone
design, which include Motorola,
Orange and MCI.

Dr Read said that Logica
had solved its earlier prob-
lems of finding enough com-
puter programmers. It had
already found 220 graduates
to fill the 350 spaces that it
has this year, he said.

"After winning a £10 million
contract in France to prepare
computers for European
monetary union and work on
the millennium computer
problem, Logica's order book
is 26 per cent up on last year.
Logica has also won a £6
million contract from the
Bank of Turkey and a £14
million outsourcing contract
from Polaris, the insurer.



Tony Hill (left), managing director, and Gerald Richardson, his deputy at Surrey Free Inns, which made annual pre-tax profits of £2.3 million (£1.2 million). Earnings were 18.8p (11.6p). A 1.6p final dividend makes a total of 28.8p, up 27%. Surrey is to be renamed SFI Group.

Cowie plans to secure foothold in Scandinavia

By FRASER NELSON

COWIE, the transport group,
is set to join rivals National
Express and Stagecoach in the
scramble for Scandinavia's
newly privatised bus routes.

The company, which has
already carved an 18 per cent
share of the UK bus market, is
in the final stages of negotia-
tions with two small bus
operators in Sweden and the
Benelux countries. Gordon
Hodgson, chief executive, said
the company is prepared to
pay a premium for the com-
panies to establish its first
overseas base.

Mr Hodgson said: "We
need a platform to move
forward, and we are quite far
in the discussions in as much
as we are now talking price.
We are taking a longer-term
view, by 2002, a third of bus
routes over there will be put
out to tender so you have to
have a platform now to sell
into this market later."

He ruled out any acqui-
sitions in Australia, adding that
it would be reluctant to expand
to anywhere which is more
than an hour's flight away.

The expansion of UK bus
operations lifted pre-tax profits
48 per cent to £37.1 million
in the six months to June 30.
Earnings grew 18 per cent to
16.6p per share, and an inter-
im dividend of 5.7p is due
on September 9.

Its car leasing division re-
turned its first ever profits
decline. Michael Gwillt, the
division's director, blamed
this on costs of bedding down
new outsourcing contracts.

Mr Hodgson, who two
weeks ago named Mr Gwillt as
his eventual successor as chief
executive, said he expects to
hand over the position by the
end of next year, when he will
be 68. However, he added that

he has no intentions of step-
ping down from the board and
would remain in another ex-
ecutive capacity.

In February dispute over his
succession led to the dismissal
of Neil Pykett, then head of its
leasing division. Mr Pykett
has taken the matter to an
industrial tribunal, with a
hearing due later this month.

Tempus, page 24

Ocean to splash out in logistics

By OUR CITY STAFF

OCEAN, the transport
group, is ready to spend its
cash pile of £300 million
on medium-sized deals in
the logistics area. John
Allan, chief executive, said:
"We are pursuing a large
number of opportunities,
mostly in the logistics area,
because we think that's the
area where there is long-
term growth potential with
what we have got."

Ocean's shares rose 15p
to 532½ p, near their all-
time high of 551p, after it
disclosed operating profits
up from £29 million to
£30.8 million for the half
year to June 30. Pre-tax
profits were £263 million
 (£27 million last year) after
a £231 million profit from
selling OIL, the offshore
services business. Under-
lying earnings per share
rose to 14.2p (12.1p). The
interim dividend rises to
5.4p (5p).

Lasmo on the lookout for Middle East opportunities

By CARL MORTIMER

LASMO, the oil exploration
company, is looking for oppor-
tunities in Iran and the Caspi-
an region. Joe Darby, chief
executive, said the company is
looking for a new area to add
to its five core locations in the
UK, Indonesia, North Africa,
Pakistan and Venezuela.

The oil company yesterday
announced net profits of £26
million for the first six months
of the year, down from £38
million in the previous year
which included a £23 million
disposal profit.

Mr Darby said he is seeking

to secure a new core area like
Venezuela, referring to the
company's recent acquisition
of the Dacion area, where
Lasmo believes it can recover
880 million barrels of oil.

"In the long run we need to
find an entry route into the
Middle East. Initially we have
been looking at the Emirates,
but in the long term it is going
to be countries like Iran or
Iraq. Iraq is still off-limits but
Iran is a possibility," he said.

Lasmo is also putting out
feelers in the Caspian region,
where Mr Darby sees the oil-

rich Azerbaijan as an attrac-
tive area.

Shares in the oil company
rose 10p yesterday after news
that production would in-
crease to 250 million barrels
per day by 2001. Mr Darby
said that the forecast related
to known oilfields and took no
account of exploration pros-
pects.

Earnings before exceptional
items rose from 1.6p to 2.1p
per share, but Lasmo is again not
paying an interim dividend.

Tempus, page 24

Allied Irish leaps ahead

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

ALLIED Irish Banks, which
recently became the first Irish
company with a market
capitalisation of more than
Ir£5 billion (£4.4 billion), yes-
terday reported a rise in pre-
tax profits to Ir£242 million,
from Ir£201.2 million, in the
half-year to the end of June.

Tom Mulcahy, chief execu-
tive, said that the strong
performance - coupled with
the acquisition of Dauphin

Deposit Corporation in Amer-
ica and purchase of a control-
ling stake in Poland's
Wielkopolski Bank Kredyto-
w (WBK) - marked a
"quantum leap" in group busi-
ness. Earnings rose to Ir£22.4p
a share from Ir£18.3p. In
London, the shares rose 29½ p-
to 563p yesterday.

In Ireland and Britain,
where pre-tax profit rose 24
per cent to Ir£130 million, the

bank continued to benefit
from investment in new tech-
nology and increased cross-
selling of financial products.

First Maryland Bancorp,
the bank's US subsidiary,
lifted pre-tax profit 10 per cent
to Ir£63 million despite higher
provision for bad credit card
debts.

The interim dividend is
lifted 14 per cent, to Ir£8p, due
on September 24.

NatWest Business Accounts Interest Rates

NatWest announces the following interest rates,
effective from 1 August 1997:

| Solutions Reserve Account | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Over 1 month per annum | Balance | Gross Compounded Annual Rate†† |
| 4.750% | Instant Access - No minimum deposit/withdrawal | 4.84% |
| 4.620% | £250,000 and above | 4.70% |
| 4.500% | £100,000 - £249,999 | 4.58% |
| 4.000% | £25,000 - £99,999 | 4.06% |
| 3.500% | £2,000 - £24,999 | 3.55% |
| 2.250% | £500 - £1,999 | 2.27% |
| | £0 - £499 | |

† Where appropriate, you will be deducted at source from interest credited or paid (which may be
reclaimed by making non-claiming). Subject to the agreed repatriation term, interest will be
paid upon.

†† Gross Compounded Annual Rate is the true annual return on your deposits if the interest
payments are reinvested in the account.

NatWest

National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lombard, London EC2P 2BP

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Bears dominant despite report from Schroders

STOCK MARKET bears giving warning of a crash have been undermined by a report from a leading merchant bank claiming that City fund managers need to spend £40 billion topping up their positions in blue chip shares.

The report from Schroders says that many institutions have missed out on the sharp gains enjoyed by banks and drug companies and risk further underperformance in their portfolios because of underweight positions in stocks like HSBC, up this year from £12.73 to £22.05, and SmithKline Beecham, up from 778p to £11.89.

Paul Walton, equity strategist at Schroders, says it will not be easy to reverse these sort of underweight positions. Stock shortages and demand for domestic blue chips by investors will make the task even more difficult. "Many funds have underperformed because they have been overweight in high-yielding stocks which looked good value but have lagged the index as it hit a succession of highs," he said.

Meanwhile, other brokers have been pointing out that some fund managers have already decided to call the top of the market after its record-breaking run this year.

UBS's fund management arm is known to have switched into cash more than a year ago fearing the market had run its course. Others, like Mercury Asset Management, have not been frightened to sell when they have been bid for stock, such as in the case of LVMH increasing its holding in Grand Metropolitan, down 6½p to 598½p.

But if the market keeps on going up, they may eventually be asked to justify such actions.

However, it was the bears who gained the upper hand yesterday as prices closed near their low for the day, having seen earlier gains wiped out. An early deficit of almost 50 points in the Dow Jones industrial average set the seal on a lacklustre performance that left the FTSE 100 index down 19.8 at 4,907.5 by the close. A total of 920 million shares changed hands.

ICI was impressing American fund managers overnight as the price raced up 3½p to £10.07½ in London on the back of heavy buying on Wall Street. It has been giving them an update on the recent disposal of its bulk chemicals



TI Group's Sir Christopher Lewinton, right, and Martin Angle, finance director, saw the shares fall 24½p to 544½p

business and the acquisition of Unilever's specialty chemicals operation.

Dixons continued to go from strength to strength, rising 12p to 607½p, still excited by the Government's decision earlier this week to scrap the recommended retail price for electrical goods. Nick Bubb at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull, the broker,

has lifted his target price from 600p to 700p and says the shares are undervalued against the rest of the sector. Airtrics dropped 22p to £11.73½ after Merrill Lynch downgraded its recommendation from a "buy" to "hold". The broker is said to be worried that increases in capacity will erode margins.

There was a muted response

to the decline in half-year profits at Glaxo Wellcome, down 38p to £12.91½, even though the setback had already been widely anticipated. Brokers were disappointed with the performance of Pylorid, the replacement for its bestselling Zantac, and said the shares had started running ahead of events.

BT closed 4p lighter at 426½p after refusing to comment on the possibility of renegotiating the terms of its £23 billion merger with MCI after its recent profits warning.

Top-of-the-range profits news from TI Group failed to cut much ice with the City and the price came in for profit taking to end the day nursing a fall of 24½p to 544½p. The company, whose chairman is Sir Christopher Lewinton, has tried to distance itself from exporters, pointing out that its manufacturers most of its products abroad. However, it admits that translating overseas profits back into a strong pound has cost it £7.6 million.

The referral of Capital Radio's £64.7 million bid for Virgin Radio left its shares 15p lower at 491p.

Logica raced up 60p to 750p after hitting the acquisition trail with the purchase of Aldison, the Irish provider of advanced network systems, for £51 million. The deal will be funded by a one-for-seven rights issue at 605p, raising £52.2 million.

Seaford Resources rose 4p to 71½p after rival Dana Petroleum launched a 78.3p share bid valuing the business at £54.4 million. Dana retreated 1p to 22½p.

News of a bid approach lifted Ronson 2½p to 21p. The troubled branded products group last month reported full-year losses of £2.2 million.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices suffered a sharp sell-off during the last hour of business. Dealers said there appeared to be no genuine reason for the sell-off. In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt finished £13½ down at £111½. In shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £13½ off at £111½. In shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2010 was three ticks easier at £102½.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street lost ground as investors started to look to today's employment data. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was down 7.43 points at \$3,474.6.

MAJOR INDICES

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| New York (midday): | |
| Dow Jones | 8247.46 (-7.43) |
| S&P Composite | 953.24 (-0.99) |
| Tokyo: | |
| Nikkei Average | 20331.43 (+118.61) |
| Hong Kong: | |
| Hang Seng | 16665.71 (+92.53) |
| Amsterdam: | |
| Euro Index | 983.33 (+0.02) |
| Sydney: | |
| AO | 2735.10 (+0.10) |
| Frankfurt: | |
| DAX | 4336.93 (+17.21) |
| Singapore: | |
| Strait | 1967.14 (+0.73) |
| Brussels: | |
| General | 14547.83 (-45.47) |
| Paris: | |
| CAC 40 | 3075.67 (+6.37) |
| Zurich: | |
| SWX | 1224.40 (+1.10) |
| London: | |
| FT 30 | 3101.6 (-8.43) |
| FTSE 100 | 4907.5 (-19.8) |
| FTSE 250 | 4992.0 (-10.0) |
| FTSE 1000 | 2350.0 (-6.8) |
| FTSE Eurotrack 100 | 1781.20 (-10.9) |
| FTSE All-Share | 2295.18 (-5.99) |
| FTSE Non Financials | 2301.79 (-7.98) |
| FTSE Financials | 1266.00 (-0.02) |
| FTSE Govt Securities | 4743.1 (-0.29) |
| Bargains | 4815 |
| SEAO Volume | 12373 |
| US\$ | 1.6373 (+0.0072) |
| German Mark | 3.0067 (+0.0072) |
| Exchange Index | 104.6 (+0.3) |
| Bank of England official call | 1997 |
| ESCU | 1.51 |
| ESDR | 1.19 |
| UK Inflation Index | 157.5 Jun (2.9%) Jan 1987=100 |
| RPIX | 156.7 Jun (2.7%) Jan 1987=100 |

RECENT ISSUES

| | | |
|----------------------|------|---|
| Billion | 222½ | + |
| Bristol & West Pl | 107½ | + |
| Camell Laird | 117½ | + |
| Delam | 269 | + |
| EMI B | 115 | + |
| Fairplay Consulting | 300 | + |
| Galen Holdings | 300 | + |
| Gremlin Group | 130½ | + |
| Hellon Pub | 108½ | + |
| Hitchell Credit (UK) | 148½ | + |
| Ionica Group | 392 | + |
| Kingfisher Leisure | 175½ | + |
| Maritime | 214½ | + |
| Reaumur Merit | 108½ | + |
| SBS Group | 105½ | + |
| Ted Baker | 140 | + |
| Thorn B | 20½ | + |

RIGHTS ISSUES

| | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|
| Active Imag n/p (10) | 1 | ... |
| Brit Borneo n/p | 40 | +10 |
| Fortune Oil n/p (11) | 3 | ... |
| HIT Enter n/p (270) | 32½ | -7½ |
| Jarvis Fund CV n/p | 4 | ... |
| Lon Mid Stw CV n/p | 19½ | -5 |
| Lea Plant n/p (120) | 2 | -1½ |

MAJOR CHANGES

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|---------|
| MAJOR CHANGES | | |
| RISES: | | |
| Logica | 750p | (+60p) |
| Roubo | 182½p | (+10p) |
| Allied Irish | 553p | (+25p) |
| Cookson | 232½p | (+11½p) |
| Inspec | 179p | (+8½p) |
| Bilton | 238½p | (+11p) |
| Swire Pacific | 580p | (+26p) |
| Haynes Pub | 242½p | (+10p) |
| LASMO | 279p | (+10½p) |
| Nest | 759½p | (+22½p) |
| FALLS: | | |
| Cohen (A) | 285p | (-30p) |
| Amey | 385p | (-20p) |
| Gearhouse Gp | 327½p | (-15½p) |
| EMI | 559p | (-24½p) |
| Boysie | 822½p | (-30p) |
| Capital Radio | 491p | (-15p) |
| All Nippon Air | 377p | (-11p) |
| AB Food | 531p | (-11p) |

Closing Prices Page 27

GIVE LASMO A CHANCE

PUNISHING Lasmo is a favourite stock market sport. Lack of long-term prospects was once the accusation. Today, the company is brimming with opportunities but the muckers complain that it has paid too much for the acreage in politically unstable countries. They also accuse Lasmo of weak management, which does an injustice to a new team and seems unfair, given recent successes. Whatever the reason, the stock trades at a 10 per cent premium to its net asset value while rivals boast 50 per cent premiums.

Lasmo does itself little favours when it muses about midstream power projects: the company is doing a fine job drilling for oil. The recent drilling success rate — three out of five — is unlikely to be repeated but Lasmo's strategy of buying into known oil rich provinces is a sound one and

should deliver better returns. The price paid for its Venezuelan acreage is high but the oil industry is in better shape. Low cost operations mean that upstream companies can make double-digit returns from a \$14 oil price and Lasmo's focus on oil-rich countries further reduces operational risk.

Political risk is more theoretical than real for oil companies. The worldwide trend is to privatise, not to nationalise, state assets, which leaves tax as the main concern. But even so, prejudice is the main concern. Supposedly a high-risk country, Lasmo has hardly changed its tax structure in two decades, while the UK changes the rules almost every five years and Gordon Brown warns another review is on the way. If the market continues to discount Lasmo heavily, other oil companies will be tempted to gobble up the stock.

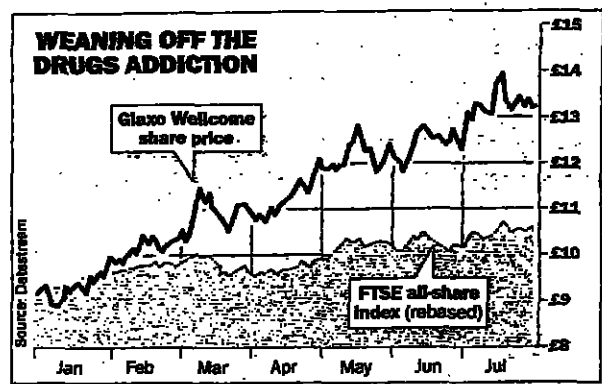
GLAXO WELLCOME

SIR RICHARD SYKES could have been forgiven for smirking yesterday. The US patent on Zantac finally expired last week, but the ulcer drug has still to face any competition from generic rivals, whose promoters are currently tied up in a morass of litigation. Poor Novopharm, a Canadian company, agreed to pay Glaxo Wellcome about £75 million for a 10-day window of opportunity that has now come and gone. While the legal wrangles continue, Glaxo Wellcome sells \$5 million of Zantac a day. It all helps.

Of course, the company's future lies elsewhere, as it is keen to emphasise. Sales of new products — rather generously defined as those launched since 1990 — were 50 per cent up at £1.3 billion, almost a third of the group

total. Sales of Epivir for HIV infection more than doubled to almost £200 million and the Imigran migraine treatment rose to £310 million.

The stock market has already recognised the promise of Glaxo Wellcome's recent and upcoming launches, which will enable the company to overcome the decline of Zantac and Zovirax. However, marketing costs, and the strong sterling impact, look set to cut profit margins from 37.5 per cent to 35 per cent this year. Glaxo Wellcome's re-rating may have come to an end. It remains a good long-term investment, but for how much longer can the big pharmaceutical stocks continue to enjoy the market's favour?



TI GROUP

TI shares have enjoyed a good run recently but the half-year figures announced yesterday could be a signal to take profits. If the results were ahead of expectation, they represent an even higher peak from which to fall.

The aerospace division did supremely well but even the TI management cannot deny that the cyclical aerospace sector has peaked. Only TI's Airbus business is still on the upward part of the curve. The rest could be set for a nosedive.

TI's other divisions lacked the excitement of aerospace. John Crane continues to face a very difficult market. Its performance is better than that of many competitors but in terms of shareholder returns it has little to contribute. Bundy is operating in a flat market and its own above-average growth may never have reached its peak. That said, the strong pound is likely to be less of a

problem than is widely thought. For TI, the problem is currency translation rather than competitiveness. The group manufactures in 45 countries and reinvests overseas profits so the company is less affected than UK engineering firms which export a product, costed in sterling. However, should the pound rise further the translation would make TI's earnings look weak. Taken together, the currency situation and the state of its markets do not bode well.

COWIE

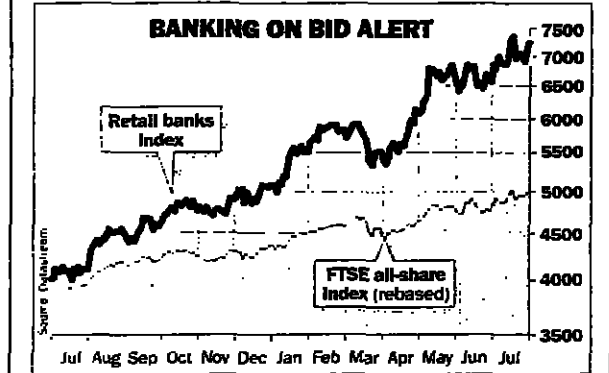
COWIE's problems have not gone away. Its loss of market value may be mourned as a casualty of the great transport bear run earlier this year, but the uncertainties which scared its shareholders have failed to disappear. There is nothing shameful in a 48 per cent leap in profits, nor in the 26 per cent rise in the share price. It will probably accompany the year-end. But it sits in

a deal-driven sector, and its share value is gauged by management skills and expansion plans.

Both these issues are in question. Gordon Hodgson may have appointed a successor, but he intends to become a permanent feature of the boardroom even after giving up the title. This is unlikely to make for harmony. The key question is whether it will be successful abroad, so the price of its next acquisition is crucial. The best transport deals are normally the ones sealed first, and Cowie is already two steps behind its rivals in Scandinavia.

At present, it is 100 per cent British and the domestic prospects look good. Its shares look fair value but, if Cowie goes a-hunting, it needs to show it has the ruthless cunning of a Stagecoach if it is to keep the earnings momentum. Evidence of this will be needed before the shares become a buy.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED



HALIFAX enjoyed a new lease of life with the price climbing 28½p to 736½p as Merrill Lynch, the broker, began recommending the shares to clients. Merrill points out that the price has come back sharply from the high of 773p when the shares were first floated. Merrill's banking team also likes the look of the Woolwich, 1p firmer at 289½p, which continues to be tipped as a potential takeover target.

The former mutuals have all enjoyed strong institutional support along with the rest of the banking sector this year and are capable of making further headway when taking an 18-month view of events.

Brokers say that further consolidation of the financial sector seems certain with the mutuals the most vulnerable to bids from the larger, fully fledged banks such as HSBC and Lloyds TSB, down 10½p to 675½p. As one broker commented: "The UK economy cannot sustain the 50-plus building societies it currently boasts. It only needs between six and eight large financial institutions in the longer term."

COMMODITIES

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| LIFFE | COCAINE | 1134-1132 |
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| MEAT & LIVESTOCK | COMMODITIES | 1755-1756 |
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| LIFFE OPTIONS | | COMMODITIES | | 1755-1756 | |
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| Jul | Aug | 1755-1756 | 1755-1756 | 1755-1756 | 1755-1756 |
| Calls | | | | | |
| Aug | 139 | 102 | 72 | 49 | 30 |
| Sep | 105 | 124 | 115 | 104 | 87 |
| Puts | | | | | |
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| Sep | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Futures | | | | | |
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| Options | | | | | |
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Big money: Luc Luyckx, the Belgian designer, centre, with replicas of his euro coins, which could be as dominant a force in world finance as the dollar

Euro will narrow monetary gap between US and Europe

The creation of a single currency will be the most important development in the international monetary system since the adoption of flexible exchange rates in the early Seventies. The dollar will have its first real competitor since it surpassed the pound as the world's dominant currency in the inter-war period. As much as \$1 trillion of international investment may shift from dollars to euros. Volatility between the world's key currencies will increase, requiring new forms of international co-operation if severe costs for the global economy are to be avoided.

The global economic roles of the European Union and the US are nearly identical. The EU accounts for about 31 per cent of world output and 20 per cent of world trade. The US provides about 27 per cent of global production and 18 per cent of world trade. The dollar's 40 to 60 per cent share of world finance far exceeds the economic weight of the US. The dollar's market share is three to five times that of the mark, the only European currency now used globally.

Inertia is a powerful force in international finance. For half a century, sterling retained a global role far in excess of Britain's economic strength. The dollar will probably remain the leading currency indefinitely. But the creation of the euro will narrow, and perhaps eventually close, the present monetary gap between the US and Europe. The dollar and euro are each likely to wind up with about 40 per cent of world finance, with about 20 per cent remaining for the yen, the Swiss franc, and minor currencies. The euro will probably be strong from its inception. The Maastricht treaty gives the European Central Bank (ECB) a mandate to ensure price stability. The ECB will place overwhelming emphasis on establishing its credibility as soon as possible. It will be especially wary of any depreciation of the euro's exchange rate and is likely to view euro appreciation as an early sign of success. The ECB will be the first central bank in history without a government looking over its shoulder.

The fiscal criteria of the Maastricht treaty are likely to be interpreted flexibly to enable EMU to start on time and to include the Club Med countries. The "growth and stability pact" to govern budget positions after start-up seems likely to have large loopholes. If unemployment remains high at start-up, the national governments will

The dollar will have its first real competitor since toppling sterling, C. Fred Bergsten says

deploy their only remaining macro-economic tool — fiscal policy — in an expansionary direction. That would intensify the pressure on the ECB to pursue a tight monetary policy.

Combining such budgetary tolerance with a resolute ECB will strengthen the new currency. The proper analogy is with the Federal Reserve, which produced a sky-high dollar in the early Eighties in the face of Ronald Reagan's huge budget deficits, or the Bundesbank, which produced a strong mark in the face of large deficits in the early Nineties triggered by German reunification. The ECB is likely to out-Fed and out-Bundesbank its most distinguished role models. Europe may not carry out the structural reforms needed to restore dynamic economic

growth. But markets prize stability more than growth, as indicated by the continued dominance of the dollar through extended periods of sluggish US economic performance. America's external economic position will continue to raise doubts about the future stability and value of the dollar. The US has run current account deficits for the past 15 years. Its net foreign debt exceeds \$1 trillion and is rising annually by 15 to 20 per cent. In contrast, the EU has a roughly balanced international asset position and has run modest surpluses in its international accounts in recent years. On this important criterion, the EU is decidedly superior to the US. There will probably be a portfolio diversification of \$500 billion to \$1 trillion into euros, with most of this shift out of the dollar. This, in turn, will have a significant impact on exchange rates during a long transition period, driving the euro up and the dollar down substantially. The extent of the shift will depend on whether the supply of euros rises in tandem with demand. It will also depend on the relationship between the dollar and the European national currencies when the euro is issued. While most Europeans

want a strong euro, they also want to avoid an overvalued currency that deepens their economic difficulties. Many believe their national currencies are already overvalued in spite of recent substantial declines against the dollar. The only way they can avoid the dilemma is to depreciate the European national currencies further before the launch of the euro. The EU would then be able to set the initial exchange rate below the fundamental equilibrium exchange rate and the euro could appreciate modestly without undermining the long-term competitive position of the European economy.

Exchange-market developments from now until the early part of the next century could be a mirror image of the first half of the Eighties. During that period, US budget deficits soared. The elimination of Japanese exchange controls triggered a large portfolio diversification from yen into dollars. Fiscal tightening in Europe and Japan further enhanced the dollar's appreciation. The opposite conditions may apply in the period ahead: further reductions in, or even

In the absence of co-operation between the EU and the US, the euro could create instability

elimination of, the US budget deficit could coincide with European fiscal expansion and a large diversification out of the dollar triggered by the euro's creation.

The exchange rate between the euro and the dollar will pose a significant policy challenge. The US and the rest of the world should reject any attempt by Europe to substantially undervalue the euro's start-up rate. It would represent a blatant effort by Europe to export its high unemployment and enable the euro to become a strong currency without any significant cost to its competitive position.

France is running sizeable trade and current account surpluses, even adjusted for its high unemployment. Germany has the world's second-largest trade surplus region. By contrast, the US is the world's largest debtor nation.

Its trade and current account deficits are headed well above \$300 billion in 1997. These facts hardly suggest that the European currencies are too strong or that the dollar is too weak. The G-7 should, at a minimum, actively resist further European depreciations and dollar appreciation.

European countries pay relatively little attention to fluctuations in their national currencies vis-à-vis the dollar. But external events will play an even smaller role in the larger, unified European economy. Larger and even more frequent changes in the exchange rate of the euro could be accepted with equanimity. The EU might even promote greater currency movements to achieve external adjustment, as the US has done on occasion.

The EU and the US must recognise that prolonged misalignments would be costly for their economies too. The US learnt this in the mid-Eighties when dollar overvaluation caused an extended recession in manufacturing and agriculture. Given the pivotal role of the EU and the US in global trade policy, such lapses would be extremely harmful to the world economy. A structured exchange-rate regime should be developed to manage the relationship that will emerge between the dollar and the euro.

The EU, Japan and the US should negotiate a target zone system with broad currency bands, perhaps 10 per cent on both sides of a nominal midpoint, that would avoid large current account imbalances and their attendant problems.

When President Giscard d'Estaing of France and Helmut Schmidt, the German Chancellor, decided to create the European monetary system in 1978, one of their goals was to foster a more stable global monetary regime. The creation of EMU could bring that vision closer to reality. However, in the absence of co-operation between the EU and the US, the euro could create instability. It is up to the governments of the two regions to achieve a smooth transition from the sterling and dollar-dominated monetary regimes of the 19th and 20th centuries to a stable dollar and euro system in the early 21st century.

The author is director of the Institute for International Economics (founded from an article in Foreign Affairs, July-August 1997)

□ Anatole Kalesky is away

Dominic Walsh on Forte's shake-up

Granada opens the door on a radical shift in hotel policy

Picture the scene. A disgruntled hotel guest goes up to the reception desk and asks to see the manager. "Um, we don't have a manager, sir," comes the embarrassed reply.

A ridiculous notion? Not if you happen to be staying at a Forte hotel, where manager-free zones are already a reality.

Granada, which paid £3.9 billion for Forte 18 months ago, has scrapped the jobs of 148 general managers at hotels outside London and appointed 58 regional managers with responsibility for a cluster of between two and six hotels each.

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cutting general managers is seen as helping.

Granada is adamant that cost-savings and disposals are not a factor. Stephen Foster, managing director of Forte UK Hotels, said: "If you compare the resultant cost base against the size of the company as a whole it makes no material difference. If we were looking to cut costs seriously there are other areas we'd have looked at first. What we're doing is using the experience of our most senior general managers over a wider base." He said that all regional managers had been appointed from within the company, although up to 30 recruits had been drafted in — some from the retail sector — to beef up the quality of the hotel operations managers who now report to them.

At the same time, staff at all levels were being put through training programmes as part of a policy of empowering them to deal with any problems. "If there's a problem I'm sure you'd much prefer the member of staff to deal with it immediately than say, 'I'll get the manager'." The decision to



Robinson: new consensus

recruit from the retail sector is significant, according to Frank Croston, director of hospitality consulting at Arthur Andersen, the accountant. He said: "We're catching up on retail philosophy, where customer service standards and the brand promise is set and maintained centrally, with unit management being required to deliver that locally. In the traditional hotel the general manager is required to become involved in the brand promise."

But there is already evidence that standards are suffering. A senior hotel inspector from one of the best-known hotel guide books said: "Obviously it takes time for big changes such as this to bed down properly, but we've already noticed some deterioration. While I think it has every chance of working with standardised products such as Posthouse — as is already the case with Travelodge — there is no doubt

things have slipped at some Heritage hotels.

Many observers believe that the problem centres on a lack of morale prevalent throughout Forte. On top of the changes at general manager level, all but three of the senior management team at the time of the takeover have left and that will shortly become two when Patrick Copeland, head of the worldwide hotel business, leaves in September. "There's total disarray at head office," said one insider. "Nobody disputed that big changes were needed, and we were prepared for a certain amount of upheaval. But they've taken it far too far and taken most of the guts out of the engine. The way they've done it has also upset people."

The other profound change implemented by Granada was on room rates. After years of having uniform tariffs across brands, Forte now charges the highest rate it thinks it can get in any given location. In its roadside Travelodge brand this has meant moving from a standard rate of £36.50 per room to one that ranges from £34.95 to £55.95. The result has been a drop in occupancy to just 63 per cent at the interim stage compared with more than 80 per cent at its big competitor, Whitbread-owned Travel Inn, which charges a single rate of £36.50 outside London. Occupancy in the UK as a whole was more or less static, and advances in turnover compared poorly with most competitors at what is generally recognised to be a boom time for Britain's hoteliers.

One insider said: "They hiked up the prices last April then boasted about it. One or two big customers got a bit upset by this and moved some of their business elsewhere."

But analysts pointed to June's interim profits as a reflection of the success of Granada's policy. The hotel division as a whole improved turnover by just 3 per cent to £529 million, but pre-tax profits leapt an impressive 58 per cent to £116 million.

The general view in the City is reasonably positive, although doubts over TV advertising revenues have kept Granada's share price well below its peak, despite a rally in the past few days on the back of American buying.

Another leisure analyst said that Gerry Robinson, Granada's chairman, and Charles Allen, chief executive, are "doing what they did with programme-making and challenging the consensus opinion. That tends to upset a lot of people, but it doesn't mean they shouldn't do it. It's too early to say whether it'll work, but by challenging the consensus now they may be creating the consensus of the future."

Party poopers

UNLUCKY Bill Emmott. The editor of *The Economist* is sending out invitations to a drinks party at the trendy Arts Club in Mayfair on September 9. Unfortunately this is the night of the annual dinner of the Trades Union Congress's general council at their conference in Brighton. Normally, such a gathering of the horn-handed sons of toil would not trouble the diaries of the London *haut monde*. But not under a Labour Government, however new.

Tony Blair will be at the TUC dinner. So will Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, as well

as David Blunkett, Margaret Beckett and a host of other ministers. Likewise CBI head Adair Turner, who will speak at the conference the following day, after the Archbishop of Canterbury of all people. This will leave *The Economist* party looking a little threadbare.

● **OLIVER BARING**, who runs South African and African corporate finance business at SBC Warburg, has been limping around on crutches and in plaster. His injury, a shattered knee-cap, was sustained bravely on the sports field. Funny time of year to be playing rugby? Perhaps he slipped on the squash court? The perpetrator was Baring's 19-year-old son Esmond, nicknamed Badger, the weapon a croquet ball, accidentally launched at his father. "Croquet is an extremely dangerous game," Baring claims weakly.

Small print

A SMALL Kent printer is suing Reed Elsevier over the disputed use of the Minerva trademark. Sittingbourne Print has used the name on stationery and packaging sold to local farmers and the like for more than a decade now,



and registered the trade name in 1989. Minerva, originally the Etruscan goddess of arts and crafts, is also the name of a publishing imprint that was owned by Reed. Mike Hill, Sittingbourne's managing director, claims Reed is hiding behind a loophole, because his name is registered to cover paper and paper articles, and Reed claims this description does not cover books.

Bewilderment at the Anglo-Dutch publisher, because Minerva, the book list, was sold to Random House earlier this year. "They can't sue us because we don't own the imprint any more," claims a spokeswoman. Hill insists his David-and-Goliath fight will continue. "It's infringing a registered trademark — I have an absolutely exclusive right to use it. I would like to come to a commercial arrange-

ment." An arrangement, naturally, whereby Reed hands over an amount of money.

Headhunt

IF THERE really is a mummified pygmy in a bank vault at NatWest, he or she must be well placed for the job of heading NatWest Markets. Two more senior staff are leaving, to join the syndicated finance team at Credit Suisse First Boston. Grant Johnson, a managing director at NatWest Markets, takes on the same job title and becomes head of loan syndications. He is bringing with him David Slade as a director. Also joining CSFB is Richard Atterbury, as a managing director charged with expanding the origination and acquisition finance team within the division. He arrives from the Bank of America in Chicago.

● **FROM** Mervyn King's brief blog, and a rare attempt at humour from the Bank of England: "He would like to spend more time reading European history, listening to music and playing tennis, which he did regularly before the inflation target was introduced."

Phone home

IF YOU are lying on a beach in Elit, The Gambia, Phuket or any other exotic destination and a Japanese businessman

plonks himself down on the next sun lounger, tactfully check his beach bag for a name tag. If he is Eisuke Sakakibara, get him to call the office. Sakakibara is a powerful Japanese Finance Ministry official, and rumours that he has been spotted in Tokyo sparked turmoil on Japanese bond markets. He was supposed to be on holiday, so his unscheduled reappearance could only mean action on interest rates, dealers surmised. The ministry in vain insisted that he was out of the country, but would not say where. "He is not in such places as New York, Washington or Europe," said a source. Doesn't narrow it down much, does it?

MARTIN WALLER



"You are held in a queue — your call will be answered in a few weeks. You are held in a..."



The Shakespeare is run alongside two other Forte hotels in Stratford-upon-Avon

Notice to existing Barclays mortgage customers

Variable mortgage rates will change as follows:

| | Old Rate | New Rate |
|---|----------|--|
| Barclays Mortgage Rate (Centrally administered mortgages) Interest charged monthly. | 7.95% | 8.20% <small>Effective from 1st August 1997</small> |
| Barclays Home Mortgage Rate (Branch based mortgages only) Interest charged quarterly. | 7.95% | 8.20% <small>Effective from 1st August 1997</small> |

If you have any queries concerning this mortgage rate change call 0800 000 929 between 8.00am and 8.00pm, Monday to Friday, or between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Saturdays.



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Tony Blair, along with Labour colleagues, has spurned *The Economist* in favour of the TUC

هكذا من الأصل

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| 1997 | High | Low | Company | Price | Yld | |
|------|------|------|------------------|-------|------|------|
| | | | | (%) | (%) | |
| 2007 | 121 | 101 | MFJ | 145 | + 3 | 42.1 |
| 2007 | 45.8 | 43.8 | Marine Bancorp | 399 | + 12 | 28.8 |
| 2007 | 415 | 415 | Minerals (Arist) | 419 | - | 42.7 |
| 2007 | 214 | 208 | Monarch Int'l | 205 | - | 42.7 |
| 2007 | 231 | 228 | Monroe Banc | 230 | + 1 | 25.3 |
| 2007 | 542 | 528 | Morgan | 530 | + 22 | 25.2 |
| 2007 | 27 | 27 | Power (G) | 32 | - | 32.0 |
| 2007 | 467 | 467 | Outfront Inc | 480 | - | 33 |
| 2007 | 69 | 69 | Partridge Fin | 75 | - | 35.1 |
| 2007 | 28 | 28 | PC Hldgs | 33 | - | 34.1 |
| 2007 | 360 | 360 | Pennsylv | 368 | - | 34.8 |
| 2007 | 32 | 32 | Sec Group | 32 | - | 20.1 |
| 2007 | 51 | 51 | Seas | 51 | - | 20.1 |
| 2007 | 38 | 38 | S&B Group | 37 | - | 20.1 |

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|------|-------------------|-------|-------|------|
| 48% | 330% Smith WH | 374 | + 10% | 5.2 |
| 1110 | 916 Software | 1017+ | + 3 | 2.4 |
| 205% | 184 Steamboat | 216 | - 4% | 4.7 |
| 150 | 107 Jingo | 120 | | 46.3 |
| 202% | 155% + 5 Shares | 185% | | 57.1 |
| 280% | 146 Thom | 168% | - 1% | 39.1 |
| 205% | 137% The Rack | 140% | | 1.0 |
| 340 | 205% (MIO) | 280 | + 2 | 2.0 |
| 3 | 3 Options & South | 3 | | 1 |
| 54% | 43% Wanders | 451% | + 3% | 29.1 |
| 26% | 4% NEW Group | 150% | | 1.0 |
| 41% | 125% Michie | 150% | | 1.0 |
| 313% | 232% Wyke | 272% | - 2% | 28.1 |

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| 525 | 385 Alpha Tech | 433 | 24 |
| 114 | 385 Alpha Amps | 53 1/2 | 70 |
| 50 | 34 1/2 Alpha Cap | 40 1/2 | 1 |
| 50 | 25 Alpha Cap | 33 | |
| 36 1/2 | 25 Alpha WCT | 26 1/2 | 31 |
| 105 1/2 | 112 1/2 BMS Res | 117 1/2 | 84 |
| 47 1/2 | 354 1/2 | 417 1/2 | 13 1/2 |
| 182 1/2 | 95 BSM | 96 1/2 | 98 |
| 400 | 416 BTE | 650 | 5 |
| 69 1/2 | 95 Brooks Circuit | 67 1/2 | 52 |
| 510 | 43 1/2 Business Post | 465 1/2 | 15 |
| 1500 | 840 | 1537 1/2 | 61 1/2 |
| 300 | 302 CCB | 302 | 2 |
| 305 | 280 Card Co | 65 1/2 | 15 |
| 275 1/2 | 16 1/4 Cams Group | 248 1/2 | 09 |
| 458 | 9 1/2 Cams | 6 | 36 |
| 226 | 300 Chain Ser | 454 | 24 |
| 48 1/2 | 172 Ctr Services | 181 | 25 |
| | 48 1/2 | 47 1/2 | 19 |

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| 246 | 2174 | DCA, Co | 25% | 5 | 0.7 | 26 |
| 272 | 2282 | Delta, Service | 50% | 5 | 4.0 | 18 |
| 816 | 685 | Delta | 68% | 5 | 1.1 | 33 |
| 282 | 220 | Desuper | 60% | 5 | 1.1 | 33 |
| 285 | 220 | Delta, Jenkins | 50% | 2 | 2.7 | 10 |
| 100 | 37 | EW Fac | 44 | 5 | 5.7 | 1 |
| 759 | 374 | B Data Pct | 54% | 4 | 4.3 | 1 |
| 602 | 475 | R Group | 53% | 6 | 1.2 | 22 |
| 223 | 519 | Delta | 56% | 6 | 1.2 | 22 |
| 313* | 519 | Delta, Robertson | 56% | 6 | 1.5 | 10 |
| 1005 | 530 | ABA Hippo | 60% | 8 | 0.8 | 44 |
| 225 | 221 | Johnson Clean | 245 | 2 | 6.3 | 9 |
| 114* | 80 | Kalamazoo | 72% | 7 | 7.3 | 10 |
| 64 | 324 | Delta, Fort | 59% | 19 | 1.9 | 29 |
| 37 | 165 | Delta, Fort | 17% | 20 | 2.0 | 13 |
| 229* | 165* | Linden | 245 | 2 | 1.8 | 18 |
| 138 | 105* | Delta | 117% | 4 | 4.3 | 16 |
| 1067* | 105* | Loggia | 75% + 80 | 4 | 4.3 | 16 |
| 1067* | 302* | Delta | 75% | 15 | 2.0 | 13 |
| 113 | 17 | Delta, Hest | 29 | 2 | 2.1 | 13 |

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| 62 | 20 | MHC | 314 | |
| 63 | 415 | Militi Oromo | 450 | 2.7 |
| 104 | 35 | MIR Group | 549 | 4.8 |
| 105 | 330 | MIR Group | 388 | 3.3 |
| 106 | 35 | MIR Group | 388 | 2.9 |
| 123 | 913 | Moro Forest | 1630 | 5 |
| 178 | 113 | Mozambique | 1164 | 8.4 |
| 132 | 1083 | Moro | 1527 | 12.2 |
| 26 | 155 | MURTE Sp | 1779 | 5 |
| 36 | 26 | NGP | 36 | 5.8 |
| 43 | 35 | NGP | 36 | 4.4 |
| 125 | 81 | Pace Interact | 1019 | 8.9 |
| 578 | 673 | Pamly | 4837 | 1.1 |
| 380 | 285 | Pogues | 359 | 3.0 |
| 158 | 158 | Pro | 117 | 5.6 |
| 152 | 109 | Pro-Mat | 120 | |
| 26 | 10 | Pro-Mat | 21 | |
| 250 | 170 | ROD | 2034 | 11.7 |
| 289 | 129 | ROD Group | 2613 | 25.9 |

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| 27% | 198 | Real Time | 348 | 1 | 31 |
| 77% | 597 | Alumni | 70 | 3 | 15 |
| 165% | 122 | Lead Executive | 122 | 7 | 27 |
| 14% | 100 | Retention Sec | 106 | 8 | 84 |
| 24% | 157 | Regional Mkt | 211 | 5 | 35 |
| 143% | 147 | Product Group | 173 | 1 | 10 |
| 267% | 135 | Health Matters | 271 | 10 | 22 |
| 452% | 362 | Rails & Nuts | 362 | 1 | 19 |
| 227 | 204 | Realities | 205 | 9 | 52 |
| 727 | 530 | Sage Co | 675 | 1 | 65 |
| 235% | 357 | Salemson City | 360 | 2 | 15 |
| 16% | 168 | Sec | 168 | 1 | 15 |
| 51% | 338 | Sales App | 513 | 3 | 67 |
| 144% | 105 | Senas Co | 140 | 2 | 35 |
| 727% | 656 | Saras Co | 727 | 9 | 39 |
| 148 | 124 | Shenks & McCann | 148 | 1 | 14 |
| 267% | 195 | Shovel Inc | 276 | 1 | 20 |
| 10% | 51 | Ship | 51 | 1 | 1 |
| 10% | 49 | Ship | 49 | 1 | 27 |

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| 237% | 125% Schlumberger | 135 | - | 4% | 3.5 | 10 |
| 73% | 185 Shell-Plus | 180 | - | 5% | 8.5 | 12 |
| 47% | 50% Supermicro VN | 57% | - | 2% | - | - |
| 78% | 45% Intel | 40 | - | 4% | 4.2 | 14 |
| 4500 | 354% Texas Inst | 47% | - | 50 | - | - |
| 106% | 54% MSP Group | 80 | - | 3 | 14 | 14 |
| 300 | 257 Western World | 260 | - | 50 | 11 | 11 |
| 284% | 215 Waste Mgt Int | 276% | - | 3 | - | - |
| 311 | 200% Waste Recycl | 21% | - | 2% | 10 | 30 |
| 147% | 13% Watschold Silver | 130 | - | 2% | 15 | - |

| TELECOMMUNICATIONS | | | | | | |
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| 502% | 391% BT | 426% | - | 4 | 6.5 | 11 |
| 636 | 456 Cable Wireless | 613 | - | 3 | 23 | 22 |

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| 339 | 256 | Cable/Wire Cords | 292 | - | 3 |
| 357 | 270 | Cat Telecom | 354 | - | |
| 240 | 167 | Exam Telephones | 307 | - | 14 20 |
| 230 | 135 | General Cable | 134 | - | |
| 227 | 184 | Orange | 211 | - | 1 |
| 336 | 249 | Secorator | 277 | - | 07 41 |
| 134 | 61 | Telephone | 811 | - | 2 |
| 317 | 240 | Wavelength | 207 | - | 20 27 |

TEXTILES & APPAREL

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| 100 | 77 | Alameda W | 85 | - | 06 16 |
| 170 | 152 | Alford Text | 170 | - | 3.9 9 |
| 200 | 183 | Barcl (Wool) | 186 | - | 1 7.0 20 |
| 129 | 98 | Barstom-Gandy | 103 | - | 5.1 11 |

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| 193 | 162 | 147 | 176 | 1 | 7.8 |
| 100 | 77 | Wessex | 84 | - 1 1/2 | 7.4 |
| 206 | 145 | Yorkshire | 160 | | 6.2 |

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| 262 | 169 | Air London | 210 | | 3.9 |
| 462 | 341 | Air Midland | 377 | - 11 | 0.4 |
| 319 | 247 | Aston, Br Ports | 263 | + 2 | 3.7 |
| 145 | 124 | Auto, Europe | 143 | + 1 | 2.9 |
| 614 | 477 | B&M | 573 | - 7 1/2 | 2.7 |
| 753 | 582 | Br Airports | 664 | + 8 | 2.8 |
| 194 | 6 | Central Train R | 92 | | 3.4 |
| 112 | 87 | Clutton Hl | 98 | | 5.1 |
| 162 | 111 | Clydesdale Qs | 112 | | 5.4 |
| 444 | 239 | Coast | 355 | + 1 1/2 | 5.5 |

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| 156 | 187 | Condolotti | 117% | 3 | 37 | 9.2 |
| 88 | 51 | Construttori Lit. | 74 | + 1 | | |
| 356 | 183 | Fraser | 197% | - 2 | 33 | 12.2 |
| 157 | 139 | Freight (Marine) | 146 | | 24 | 10.9 |
| 663 | 335 | Food Prods. | 192% | - 1 | 35 | 12.5 |
| 471 | 268 | Food Stores | 662% | + 5 | 18 | 10.6 |
| 471 | 268 | Food Stores | 425 | | 28 | 14.1 |
| 199 | 102 | Hempden Co. | 199% | + 7 | 0 | 5 |
| 720 | 405 | Iceberg Cans | 700 | | 17 | 15.4 |
| 104 | 74 | Indco | 375 | + 2 | 25 | 13.6 |
| 104 | 74 | Indco | 375 | | | |
| 440 | 275 | Intercontinental | 375% | - 1% | 42 | 16.8 |
| 186 | 121 | INFC | 133% | + 1 | 6 | 13.3 |
| 581 | 434 | Intl Express | 477 | + 1 | 28 | 11.1 |
| 581 | 434 | Intl Express | 538% | - 10 | 37 | 17.2 |
| 111% | 581 | Intl Express | 538% | - 10 | 37 | 17.2 |
| 682 | 561 | P & O Ltd | 621 | + 16 | 6 | 12.4 |
| 128 | 101 | P & O 5.5% | 109% | | 6 | 3 |
| 825 | 440 | Reinhardt | 793% | + 8 | 35 | 16.6 |

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| 50 | 35 | 34 | 35 | 1 | 1.8 | 27 |
| 500 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 1 | 1.8 | 27 |
| 601 | 548 | 548 | 548 | 1 | 1.7 | 20.7 |
| 142 | 86 | 85 | 151 | | 3.2 | 13 |
| 652 | 54 | 54 | 57 | | 3.2 | 13 |
| 208 | 162 | 162 | 162 | | 7.3 | 12.5 |
| 100 | 60 | 60 | 92 | + | 3.0 | 12 |
| 100 | 80 | 80 | 80 | | 4.3 | 15.4 |

| WATER | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----------------|-----|---|-----|------|
| 811 | 577 | Angiant | 801 | + | 1 | 5.4 |
| 375 | 503 | East Summit | 274 | | 6 | 11.1 |
| 881 | 740 | West | 862 | + | 6 | 7.3 |
| 111 | 101 | Hydr Co Pitt | 100 | | | 9.1 |
| 840 | 557 | Mid. Foll. Hill | 585 | | 6.4 | 10.9 |

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|------|------|---------------|------|-------|-----|------|
| 914: | 663 | South West | 804+ | + 2 | 5.3 | 87 |
| 289: | 2795 | South | 2830 | + 5 | 1.9 | 12.8 |
| 825 | 599: | East West | 786 | + 1 | 5.8 | 97 |
| 818: | 599: | Heart | 804 | + 2 | 5.3 | 94 |
| 818: | 599: | East (United) | 787: | + 1 | 5.8 | 11 |
| 501 | 344: | Westport | 431+ | + 10: | 4.6 | 94 |
| 425: | 325 | Westport | 448 | - 9 | 5.2 | 95 |

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|------|-----|---------------|------|------|-----|------|
| 115: | 84: | Abacus Record | 109+ | ... | 0.5 | 21.2 |
| 215 | 170 | Cole Inc | 184 | + 1: | 2.1 | 17.0 |
| 220 | 152 | Country Sales | 175 | - 4 | 1.1 | 16.3 |
| 267 | 160 | Deseret Hops | 212: | ... | 2.8 | 20.5 |
| 313: | 33 | Emery | 364: | ... | ... | ... |

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| 98% | 75 | Magnificent | 62 | + 9% | 0.3 |
| 65 | 22% | Midway Corp. | 287 | + 2 | |
| 500 | 200 | Palm Inc. | 325 | | |
| 1265 | 945 | Parsons Corp. | 1550 | - 29% | 0.1 |
| 783 | 679 | Shawmut Corp. | 740 | | |
| 77% | 74 | Shawmut Corp. | 69 | | 3.1 |
| 510 | 407 | Southern Fr. Ins. | 452 | + 16 | 0.0 |
| 60% | 17% | Woodsbury | 25 | - 1 | |

Source: FT International

1 = Price of stock; 2 = Ex dividend; 3 = Ex scrip; 4 = Ex rights

5 = Ex 100; 6 = Ex 100; 7 = Ex 100; 8 = Ex 100

9 = No significant data; 10 = Fluctuates or reports

11 = No significant data; 12 = Compares a total

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| 104 th | 107 th | Date: 8/6/2002-06 | 109 th | - | 2/1 | 7/01 | 103 rd | 119 th |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|-----|------|-------------------|-------------------|

1

Hot beats best heard under a duvet of mud

NEW ALBUMS: David Sinclair hears Dreadzone, laid-back heroes of summer festivals, come unstuck in the warm and dry

DREADZONE
Biological Radio
(Virgin 7243 8 4408, £13.99)
IF THERE is one group that can legitimately claim to have captured the sound of the modern British summer it is Dreadzone. Having already appeared at more festivals than any other act this year, they have perfected a balmy mixture of reggae and techno bathed in a warm glow of wholesome spirituality that is the perfect palliative for ears buffeted by extremes of rock'n'roll grandstanding and feet suffering from muddy boot syndrome.

But the air of relaxed bonhomie that produces that all-important feelgood factor on stage can sound a trifle woolly on disc, and there are several meandering instrumental tracks towards the end of *Biological Radio*, with ominously vague titles such as *Heat the Pot* and *Dream Within a Dream*, that are little more than extended waffles. Elsewhere, on songs including *The Lost Tribe* and *Earth Angel*, they explore their mung-bean philosophy ("I believe in love/I believe in evolution") with good-natured enthusiasm and plenty of clattering, world music percussion.

But with so little substance, and nothing to match the sprightly

tunefulness of last year's hit, *Little Britain*, the album's appeal is likely to prove more of a holiday romance than a long-lasting affair.

SON VOLT
Straightaways
(Warner Bros. 9362-46518 £15.49)
THE chorus of critical acclaim that greeted Wilco's album *Being There* earlier this year ("The new *Exile On Main St*" — Everyone) has naturally turned the spotlight in the direction of *Straightaways* by Son Volt, the "other" group to emerge from the ashes of the influential but unsung Illinois band Uncle Tupelo.

If the resulting glare proves, at times, to be a little too searching for comfort, then that is because the songs of Son Volt's singer and leader Jay Farrar do not have quite the same breadth of vision or obvious sense of mission as those written by his former Uncle Tupelo partner Jeff Tweedy for the Wilco album.

But what Farrar has got instead is a classic country-rock voice, which he applies to a fund of wonderfully crafted songs squarely located in an American roots music tradition that stretches from Gram Parsons to the Jayhawks.

"From Memphis to New

Orleans/In and out of railroad dreams/You're out there it seems, passing by," Farrar sings in *Crossed*, a slow, lilting song effortlessly graced with mournful pedal steel and cascading acoustic guitar breaks. With fiddle, banjo and harmonica augmenting the unplugged, guitar-band sound, the album embraces good-natured, down-the-line rockers (*Caryatid Easy*, *Picking up the Signal*) alongside darker spiritual laments such as *Been Set Free*, with an old-fashioned air of authority that is rare among artists of his relatively youthful vintage.

DYNOTE
Dynote
(VC Recordings 7243 8 44528 £11.49)

THERE is a generation of master musicians now emerging in Britain that would doubtless have ended up playing straight jazz or fusion had they not spent their formative years immersed in the sounds and social life of the dance/dub/rave scene. Instead, players and producers such as Roni Size of Reprazent and Tom Jenkinson of Squarepusher have gravitated towards drum and bass, a form of musical minimalism that offers virtually unlimited scope for spectacular displays of rhythmic ingenuity.

About a decade older than Size and Jenkinson, Matt Winn of Dynote is another of this breed, but one with a more rounded musical portfolio. On his third album, he combines "proper" piano and flute

Compact discs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from The Times Music Shop on 0345 023498



The relaxed bonhomie that produces that all-important feelgood factor on stage becomes a trifle woolly on disc for Dreadzone

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (1) *The Fat of the Land*Prodigy (XL Recordings)
- (2) *White on Blonde*Texas (Mercury)
- (3) *Spice*Spice Girls (Virgin)
- (4) *OK Computer*Radiohead (OK Computer)
- (5) *The Best of Michael Jackson & Jackson 5* (Polygram TV)
- (6) *Sheryl Crow*Sheryl Crow (A&M)
- (7) *Do It Yourself*Seahorses (Geffen)
- (8) *Come Find Yourself*Fun Lovin' Criminals (Chrysalis)
- (9) *Heavy Soul*Paul Weller (Island)
- (10) *No Way Out*Puff Daddy & the Family (Puff Daddy)

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Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

Global warming

CELEA LIEBMAN, REISINGER
World View
(Label Bleu LBLC 0592 HM 83)

A "MAGICAL maiden voyage for three open souls with mutual respect" is American saxophonist David Liebman's description of this free-flowing, gutsy album, recorded in France, but containing music drawn from a rich variety of sources: free jazz, world music, fusion and others.

All three participants have appropriately versatile musical pasts. French bassist Jean-Paul Celea has worked with everyone from Pierre Boulez to John McLaughlin; Liebman with Miles Davis, Elvin Jones and his own wide-ranging rock and jazz bands; drummer Wolfgang Reisinger with the embodiment of arty European eclecticism, the Vienna Art Orchestra — and they exploit all their experience in 12 three-way musical conversations ranging from collectively improvised pieces through tumbling, punchily informal workouts to scrabbling free-form jams. Fresh,

JAZZ ALBUMS

passionate, open-eared, this is world music in the best sense of the term.

ENRICO RAVA QUARTET

Animals
(Inak 8801 CD)

RECORDED in 1987 in Milan, this CD reissue catches Italian trumpeter Enrico Rava, guitarist Augusto Mancinelli, bassist Furio Di Castri and drummer Mauro Beggio on eight in-house originals that could all be roughly described as fusion (courtesy chiefly of Mancinelli's cascading, hard-edged runs and Beggio's thunderous attack).

Rava is, however, too mercurial a performer to fit easily into such a rigid category: the elegantly funky title track could almost be an out-take from an early 1970s Miles Davis album, but elsewhere, he rings the changes with stately ballads, hurtling neopop and tumbling blues. A typically intelligent album.

CHRIS PARKER

IN CONCERT: Hard lessons for a soul ingenue; cheerful revision by a top tribute band; master class at the piano

She still needs some body

Shola Ama
Jazz Café, NW1

If we take the showbiz story at face value, then had Shola Ama not been humming to herself while waiting at Hammersmith Tube station for a train to Heathrow, she might never have reached the arrivals lounge of the British charts.

As it is, her vocal doodles were overheard by Kwame, from the British soul collective D-Influence, and pen was soon put to paper. The 18-year-old ingenue recently completed a three-month run in the bestsellers with a confident remake of the Randy Crawford hit *You Might Need Somebody*, selling a spectacular 350,000 copies.

With a follow-up single, *You're the One I Love*, out soon and her debut album around the next corner, Ama is at a pivotal moment in her fledgling career. Down one road lies international acclaim and a place in the vanguard of British rhythm & blues. Straying down the other could see

her trapped in a cul de sac, cluttered with the dim memories of previous British soul hopefuls such as David Grant and Kenny Thomas.

In recent months Ama has paid some stage dues as the opening act for ST and the Pussies, and appearing at festivals. All the same, this London date felt like a debut of sorts and the place was chockfull, although the buzz of chatter that continued after she began suggested this was as much a gig to be seen as to be listened to.

Kwame's pontificating introductory speech seemed to load the dice of expectation, and Ama cut a meek figure at the top of the show, tiptoeing into tracks from that forthcoming album, *Much Love*, such as *We Got a Vibe* and the title song. Her wide-eyed eagerness to impress had one result: for a more authoritative performance, perhaps an unreasonable request of one so young. She will come to know that true soulfulness is about more than the frequent repetition of the word "baby".

Some of her material, most of which she writes or co-writes, has the groove to survive in the domestic R&B climate, but her lyrics are almost all bald retreads of emotional conceits that had



Shola Ama will learn that true soulfulness is about more than the frequent repetition of the word "baby"

already gone around the clock in soul's heyday. *Who's Loving My Baby* was a stylish exception, and the new single lent a little more muscle before *You*

Might Need Somebody, saved for last, brought the loudest cheer of the night.

PAUL SEXTON

Rhythms of a quieter age

Huw Warren
Vortex, N16

A HOT, airless night in north London, filled with the sounds of passing police sirens and the street, was the unlikely setting for the first performance of pianist Huw Warren's new suite for string trio and jazz septet, *A Barrel Organ (Far From Home)*.

Each of the sections of the piece is inspired by a photograph of town or country life more than half a century ago, and in an intriguing blend of folk, jazz and contemporary composition each brings these blurry images of a quieter age vividly to life. The opening part set a melancholy tone that persisted through much of the evening, with the strings providing a gloomy backdrop to the clarinet of Pete Whyman and the bageoler of Steve Buckley.

Throughout the suite such reflective sections were alternated with jaunty, angular melodies, redolent of barrel organ themes, and, over the

as dawn broke and the gaslights guttered out. Against some of Warren's strongest writing, Argüelles blistered through free and composed sections alike, leaving Whyman's swirling clarinet in his wake.

The most outstanding player of the evening was Warren himself, conforting himself into knots as he scurried over the keyboard, constantly adding invention, surprise and interest as he cheerfully spurred his musicians on. The breadth of his playing experience, from groups like Perfect Houseplants and Billy Jenkins's Voice of God Collective to accompanying singers June Tabor and Christine Tobin, has stood him in good stead as band leader and composer, and this material should help to consolidate his reputation when it appears on CD later in the year.

ALYN SHIPTON

Learning fun on the A-level train

The name suggests something demure, elegant and, well, museum-like. Do not be deceived. Peter Long's genial repertoire band, the Echoes of Ellington Orch., certainly does not skimp on the authenticity on, say, *Rockin' in Rhythm*, but does it treat Duke Ellington's music as a dusty, covered artefact of interest only to drinkers of warm beer and collectors of well-worn 78s.

We will always have the records to cling to, of course, and in recent years there has been an outpouring of books that shed more light on the musician dubbed "the hot Bach". Some of the scholarly attention, in fact, threatens to become excessively solemn and reverential, as if Ellington really did learn his craft in Köthen rather than the Cotton Club.

Long and his hard-blowing colleagues provide an important service by adding a whiff of perspiration and humour to the Ellington industry. They remind us that the bandleader who devoted so much of his energy to suites and sacred concerts had one foot in the entertainment industry.

The musician who wrote the concert piece *Black Brown and Beige* also turned out the catchy melody of *Satin Doll*.

The presence of *Happy Go Lucky Local* in the opening set summed up the mood. Lifted from the *Deep South Suite*, its shuffle beat hints at the visceral momentum of early rhythm and blues; in later years, it was subtly transformed into *Night Train*, that perennial favourite of both soul brother James Brown and boxer Sonny Liston.

Having heard Wynton Marsalis's Lincoln Centre Orchestra cover much the same

Echoes of Ellington Orch.
100 Club, W1

ground, it was fascinating to see how well Long's musicians coped with what is presumably a much more slender budget. The piece brought out some of the grandstanding tendencies in the orchestra, dog-whistle notes flying in all directions from a trumpet section which featured the admirable Bruce Adams in full Cat Anderson mode.

Long imposed greater discipline on Billy Strayhorn's melody, *Sinior*, the saxophones supplying the dexter textures on cue. Strayhorn's most famous contribution to the songbook, *Take the A Train*, is one of those warhorses that most people would gladly do without, having heard it played so many times down the years. This, however, was a refurbished arrangement, with the extended piano introduction seamlessly moving into a higher gear from a sprightly waltz opening.

The band's vocalist, Patti Revell, overcame the unsympathetic amplification to exchange sultry banter with the rest of the musicians, temporarily transformed into the self-styled Revelltones. Altogether, Ripper regularly bobbed into view with elegant approximations of Johnny Hodges, while Ray Gelato, a latter-day Louis Prima, made a guest appearance later, reinforcing the band's populist credentials. The recipe is served up with a flourish on the new live album, *Rockin' in Ronnie's* (Jazz House).

CLIVE DAVIS

folkselection

TAMALIN RHYTHM & RHYME
Newcomers Tamalin apply a different touch to some excellent traditional playing. This lot are on their way! £10.00

IONA - LIVE HEAVEN'S BRIGHT SUN
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topdogformusic

Angel Williamson meets those block-rockin' Chemical Brothers, unlikely rulers of the pop charts

We have the technology

You can take your pick when describing the music of the Chemical Brothers. The *Race* called it "psychedelic trip-hop transmuting space-bombed electro techno rock'n'roll with extra superfly funk". Elsewhere, the more succinct "big beats" has become the accepted currency. The title of their most recent chart-topping single, *Block Rockin' Beats*, conveyed the idea equally well, a driving, electronic dance sound with more beats per minute than you can count and delectable leads to make your brains dribble. Dance acts such as the Chemical Brothers have restored the musical generation gap and resurrected the perennial war-cry of "Turn that noise down". You're only as old as the Chemicals make you feel.

In the past 12 months they have moved from underground club DJ to international stardom. Together with the Prodigy they epitomise the triumph of dance culture, a ten-year takeover that began with acid house. This year the Chemicals became the first British dance act to sell a million in America with their album *Dig Your Own Hole*. The Prodigy's *Invaders On The March* followed, crashing into the American album charts. And the Chemicals, both albums now on the shortlist for the prestigious Mercury Music Prize. At last there is a homegrown sound to rival Britpop, and it came as no surprise when Noel Gallagher lent his voice to the Chemicals' first No 1 single, *Setting Sun*.

But despite their success, Ed Simons and Tom Rowlands, the non-siblings who make up the Chemical Brothers, remain largely anonymous. We had arranged to meet in their local pub in Notting Hill, and Simons, who looks more likely to sell you a life insurance policy than a block rockin' beat, was already there. I sat at the next table without realising who he was, and the introductions were only made with the arrival of Rowlands, unmistakable with his Rick Wakeman-style long blond hair. Fortunately there is no rock star attitude about either of them. "We haven't got huge egos," Simons says. "We are what we are, nice middle-class kids."

The early part of the Chemicals' story is hardly the stuff of which rock'n'roll legends are made — they met in 1989 when medieval history students at Manchester University. But before long they were being inspired more by hip-hop and acid house than Beowulf and the Beede, and began DJ-ing around Manchester and making their own records.

"We were bored, and so I created a little electronic studio in my bedroom," Rowlands says. "We made *Song to the Siren*, and it was different from anything else around. DJs started playing it at techno clubs and it would wake up the night."

Although they have now made the crossover, the idea that dance is a superior underground culture far removed from the traditional rock industry continues to sustain the Chemicals' world view. "Dance cuts through the machinations of the industry. In pop and rock you have to negotiate with this huge infrastructure," Simons says. "In dance music you give the single to a DJ and he plays it in the clubs. That is all you need. Major labels sign dance acts from hearing a demo, and that just doesn't work. You have to build from the roots: good club DJs are not going to play records sent to them by Sony or Virgin."



"What we play has a greater degree of musical performance than a lot of rock bands," says Ed Simons (left, with fellow Chemical Tom Rowlands)

Yet by 1995 the Chemicals had themselves signed to Virgin and their first album, *Exit Planet Dust* (a reference to their origins as the Dust Brothers, a name lost in a legal wrangle with a similarly titled American act) sold more than 200,000 copies. *Setting Sun* followed, and the sequel was completed this summer with *Dig Your Own Hole*.

Although the beat is uncompromisingly loud and booming, attentive listening reveals a range of influences which help to explain the breadth of their appeal. "We are into the power of the sound," Simons says, "but it is a shame if people only hear the drums because there is a lot of other complicated stuff there as well."

One element which has made the Chemicals accessible to rock as well as dance audiences is their love affair with 1960s psychedelia, particularly the Beatles. *Tomorrow Never Knows* vintage. "They were people with limited technology really pushing the boundaries," Rowlands says. "We wanted to push on from that, and loud, disorientating acid house music seemed a natural progression. There is a spirit of adventure because

the club audience is receptive. You can do almost anything on the dance floor."

The Chemical Brothers have also become a hugely popular live act. To those brought up on guitars and

drums, it can be a disconcerting experience — at Glastonbury Simons and Rowlands were almost invisible behind their banks of electronics. If every beat is computerised, sequenced, pre-set and pre-tuned, aren't they really nothing more than glorified knob-twiddlers? "In electronic music you have a computer and you write into the sequencer what notes to play," Rowlands says. "So we have the component

sounds in our samplers, but then we have the desk where we mix the sounds and then we decide what plays when and where." This still sounds like an ersatz form to me, but Rowlands insists that their performances are heavily improvised. "The last album came out of us

playing live. You get a beat and then you start playing around with it through a drum pad on the sequencer. It is like jamming, and it is so flexible — we don't have to go to the verse here or the chorus there. If we

get something we like and the audience is into it we just go on. It's really exciting."

Simons is also annoyed by those who fail to understand electronic music's creativity. "We know when we have done a good gig, but then we read a review which says yes, great sound, but it's not real music. It is a lot freer and less rigid than a band that rehearses for two months before going out on the road. What we play has a greater degree of musical performance than a lot of rock bands."

The defence is spirited and eloquent, but surely dance music and its samples remains essentially a parasitic art form? "Parasitic is not an insult," Simons says. "If you came to

It is a shame if people only hear the drums

our studio the main thing you would see is other music, thousands of records. That is our starting point, using sounds not in a parasitical way but in a complicated, artistic way, morphing them to our own ends."

We move on to another difficult subject — the central role of drugs in dance music. The very name of the band seems to imply the link, but Simons is matter-of-fact. "The music is not aimed at drugged-up dance floors, but that is one of the surroundings in which it works. This is life-affirming music."

We part as the photographer takes them off to London's Westway in search of some gritty urban realism for a backdrop. It seems appropriate, given that the title of the current album was inspired by a piece of graffiti on a wall. "But we've now found a poem by Yoko Ono called *Dig Your Own Hole*," Simons says. "Do you think we'd get more credibility if we said it came from there?"

Elektronik, the Chemical Brothers' new single, is released on Virgin/Freestyle Dust on August 18. The band plays the V97 Festival in Chelmsford on August 16 and Leeds on August 17.

Don't hit the road Jack, stay home

It may sound like hip heaven, but going on the road with a band is hell

"ON THE road." It's such a sexy, thrilling, who-knows-where-we'll-be-tomorrow phrase, evoking Romany caravans, and Jack Kerouac passing out in the boot of a Ford Mustang, out of his tiny mind on Nature's most interesting shrubs and cacti. You imagine a week of hanging out in the tour bus, crackling jokes that later get used in lyrics, being regarded as one of the gang by the road crew, and playing a tequila-fuelled tambourine solo in front of 50,000 screaming Mexicans, while the lead singer points at you in a dramatic, this-is-our-guru way. In short, going on the road is a journalist's chance to recreate *Stars In Their Eyes* while impossibly drunk in a country that's pleasantly hot.

Is it like that? Is it bobbins. You fly out, meet a homesick and hungover group of musicians who grill you for three hours on current plot twists in *Brookside* and *Teletubbies*, sit in a breeze-block dressing room while they swap in-jokes with each other, watch the gig, go back to the hotel for an hour-long interview with an exhausted and drunken lead singer, and mooch to bed. If it's an American trip, then the next day is spent trailing around after a press officer who is desperately trying to find (a) a coke dealer or (b) a place that does discounts on Maybelline mascara in

bulk for everyone in the office. Of course, none of this would matter as much if journalists' pride was assuaged by a laminate. Laminates are the gold discs of tour life, only usually issued to road-crew, band members and press officers. Every hack craves to have the Access All Areas necklaces, if only because it allows you access to the seated areas of venues, so you can sit down and have a nice little nap while the band play. So coveted are these passes that Jonathan King walks around with every laminate he's ever been issued slung around his neck.

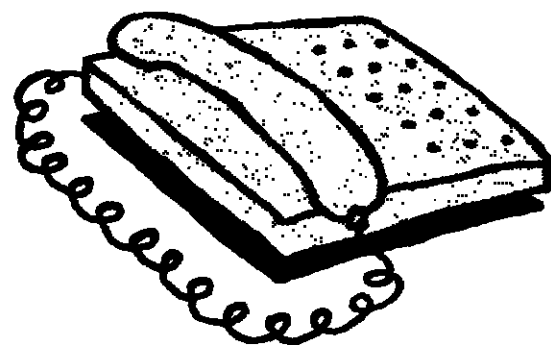
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But instead of this sexy, compact medallion, hacks on trips are issued with a stick-on Guest Pass, which makes you feel like one of those cashiers at Superdrug with "My name is SANDRA, how may I help?" emblazoned on their breast. And it rips the pile off velvet and other tactile fabrics when you try to remove it.

So don't think going on the road with a band is a crazy one-way ticket to rock'n'roll Valhalla. It's just a frock-rumouring exercise in boredom, only relieved by an hour of frantic brain-searching, while you try to remember whether Jackie Dixon from *Brookside* is going for that eye operation or not. Jack Kerouac would rather have stayed at home.



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LONDON

BBC PHONOS - At 10.30pm, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in tonight's Prom 1 (pm), which incorporates three of the 19th-century symphonies of both Brahms and Schubert are celebrated with Brahms's vigorous Song of the Night and Schubert's serene Mass in A flat major and Jean-Yves Thibaudaud plays Chopin's folk-inspired Piano Concerto No. 2. Tomorrow, at 7.30pm, the BBC Singers and BBC Concert Orchestra under Barry Wordsworth perform Gilson and Sullivan's ebullient opera The Gondoliers. At 4pm on Sunday, Anne-Marie conducts Mendelssohn's Overture and Shostakovich's 21st in West's Mahogany-Songspiel and The Seven Deadly Sins. Tomorrow, at 7.30pm, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Alexander Luby, conductor, gives a concert of Glinka's Capriccio brillante on the 'Lullaby' and Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 (soloist: Tessa Lister-Jones) and Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 3. The programme includes the BBC's new recording of the 1997 Mahogany-Songspiel. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30.

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

OTHELLO - David Harrowood makes his National Theatre debut in the title role of Sam Mendes's production. The play is a re-imagining of Shakespeare's Othello. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30.

ELSEWHERE - The year's best film. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND - The year's best film. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30.

THE GODFATHER - The year's best film. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30.

THE GODFATHER PART II - The year's best film. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30.

THE GODFATHER PART III - The year's best film. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30.

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THE GODFATHER PART XLI - The year's best film. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30. Tickets: 10.30pm, £10.30; 7.30pm, £7.30.

Hell hath no fury like this

The Kirov has some of the greatest choreography in the world in its repertoire. And we have seen plenty of it during the company's luxurious summer season at the Coliseum.

Fountain of Bakhchisarai

Premiered in St Petersburg in 1934, it is the work of composer Boris Asafiev, choreographer Rostislav Zakharov and dramatist Nikolai Volkov, who based his scenario on Pushkin. There is not much to admire in either score or choreography, yet the artists of the Kirov manage to rise above the inadequacies of the material.

Fountain tells the tale of the Tartar chieftain Khan Guirei who captures a Polish princess and lays waste to her family home. There are no hidden depths, but that doesn't seem to bother the Russians. They still give it all they've got, hurling themselves wholeheartedly into the emotional hokum. Sometimes you think they are going too far: Vladimir Ponomarev's Khan is so interperate that all he needs is a train track on which to tie the hapless Princess Maria. But then comes the big moment - Maria's rejection of her Tartar captor - and there is Ponomarev convincing us ut-

terly that not only does he truly love her, but that he is made desolate by her rejection.

Svetlana Zakharova joined the Kirov only last year, but already her Maria impresses. She has a dewy freshness and a tender tenacity - she even clutches that silly harp (the only thing she managed to save from the conflagration at home) with poignant credibility. On opening night, though, the honours went to Alina Asymuratova as Zarema, the Khan's vengeful wife. She parades into the harem, a queen of all she surveys, trailing yards of glorious fabric. She is al-

luring and confident in her favoured place in the Khan's affections. But she quickly picks up the scent of competition, at first chastised and then steeling herself to do whatever it takes - even murder - to win Guirei back.

Asymuratova has the advantage of a triumphantly expressive face, and to this she brings such artistic integrity that even the more ludicrous comers in the choreography are tamed. When she finally confronts her rival - knife in hand - you know this is a woman who is hurting bad, and you can't help but feel her pain. Maria may have the moral high ground, but Zarema is the one who touches our hearts.

DEBRA CRAINE



Alina Asymuratova as Zarema, the Khan's vengeful wife, in the Kirov production

A stand-up comic's lot is not an easy one

COMEDY

Short BAC and Sides BAC, SW11

Earlier, we were all handed dance caps to wear during the bout of ritual humiliation and sardonic quasi-cabaret that is Club Zarathustra. Marcelline, the team of stormtroopers, Stewart Lee and Simon Munnery combined the inspired with the frankly lackadaisical. Although a promising running joke inspired by the oyster scene in *Spartacus* was one of many that still seemed to be searching

for a pay-off, the parody of an Arts Council poet proved a direct hit, even if E.J. Thribb did get there first. At the end of the evening it was just possible to sprint a half-mile to the Grace Theatre, where Marcus Brigstocke - last year's winner of the BBC New Comedian of the Year award at Edinburgh - offered samples from his new show. Versatile, mobile phones and Oprah Winfrey were all predictable targets, and Brigstocke spends a lot of time reminiscing about drink and drugs without saying anything particularly original. On the other hand he is an incisive mimic, whether imitating the lardbuckets who unbuckle themselves to Rikki Lake or regurgitating the nonsense patter of your average jungle pirate DJ.

CLIVE DAVIS

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JOHN PETER, SUNDAY TIMES



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THE GODFATHER PART XXV

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JERRY LEWIS

DAMN YANKERS

THE GODFATHER PART XXII

THE GODFATHER PART XXIII

THE GODFATHER PART XXIV

THE GODFATHER PART XXV

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Internal flight alternative

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Robinson

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Brooke

[Judgment July 11]

Where an asylum seeker had a well founded fear of persecution in relation to one area of his home state but no such fear in respect of another area the question whether he should reasonably be expected to relocate to the safe area, the internal flight alternative, bore directly on whether he was properly to be treated as a refugee within the meaning of the Geneva Convention of 1951 (and 1967) and the Protocol of 1967 (and 1969) relating to the Status of Refugees.

Accordingly, the immigration appellate authorities had jurisdiction under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 to consider the internal flight alternative, in determining whether an asylum seeker's removal would contravene the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

In seeking to appeal, an asylum seeker was required to state his grounds of appeal in his notice and the appellate body was not required to engage in a search for new grounds; but where there was a readily discernible and obvious point of Convention law favourable to the asylum seeker, which was not taken on his behalf, the special adjudicator, the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, on an application for leave to appeal, and the High Court, on an application for leave to move for judicial review, should nevertheless apply it.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an application by Mr Anthony Robinson for judicial review of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal's refusal of leave to appeal from the special adjudicator who had dismissed his appeal from the refusal of the Secretary of State for the Home Department to grant him leave to enter the United Kingdom.

On the applicant's appeal under section 8 of the 1993 Act the special adjudicator had found that he had a well founded fear of persecution in the Jaffna region of Sri Lanka from which he originated but that no such fear could be established in respect of Colombo to which he had travelled before fleeing to the United Kingdom where he had claimed asylum.

The applicant sought leave to appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal but did not state in his

grounds that the adjudicator should have considered factors relevant to the reasonableness or otherwise of his returning to Colombo.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Raza Hussain for the applicant; Mr David Pannick, QC and Miss Alison Foster for the Home Secretary; Mr Mark Shaw for the Immigration Appeal Tribunal.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the Geneva Convention did not deal expressly with a situation where a person might technically be able to live in part of a country free of fear but for some reason it was not reasonable to expect him to do so.

No international court was charged with the interpretation and implementation of the Convention and therefore the *Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status* published in 1979 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was a particularly helpful guide to what was the international understanding of the Convention obligations.

The 1979 *Handbook* stated that fear of persecution did not always need to extend to the whole territory of the refugee's country of nationality; that persecution of a specific ethnic or national group might occur in only one part and in such a case a person would not be excluded from refugee status merely because he could have sought refuge in another part, if it was not reasonable to expect him to do so.

A similar concept was to be found in paragraph 8 of the Joint Position (March 4, 1996) defined by the Council of the European Union and based on article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union (1996) OJ No L23/22 that where persecution appeared to be confined to a specific part of a country's territory the decision-maker should ascertain whether the claimant could not find effective protection in another part of his own country to which he might reasonably be expected to move.

The Joint Position reflected a contemporary understanding of the obligations created by the Convention which was not confined to member states of the European Union and was based on the principle that the international protection afforded by the Convention would only come into play when a country could not afford the claimant protection within its own frontiers: see *Carr-*

ada (AG) v Ward (1993) 103 DLR (4th) 1. It followed that if the home state could afford what was called variously "relocation", "safe haven" or "internal flight alternative" where the claimant would not have a well founded fear of persecution, then international protection was unnecessary.

But it had to be reasonable for him to go and stay in that safe haven. In determining whether that was so a decision-maker would have to consider all the circumstances of the case against the backdrop that the issue was whether the claimant was entitled to refugee status.

The court considered as particularly helpful the test stated by Justice of Appeal Linden in *Thirunavukarasu v Minister of Employment and Immigration* (1993) 109 DLR (4th) 682: "Would it be unduly harsh to move to another part of the country where there is less hostility than the part of the country being sought by the refugee?"

The use of the words "unduly harsh" fairly reflected that what was at issue was whether a claimant could reasonably be expected to move to a particular part of the country.

If the question of the internal flight alternative arose, the answer went directly to the issue whether the claimant should properly be treated as a refugee within the meaning of the Convention, or whether he might legitimately be returned to that part of his home country consistently with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

The jurisdiction of the appellate authorities derived exclusively from section 8 of the 1993 Act. Different divisions of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal had considered that they had no jurisdiction on appeals to consider the internal flight alternative because it did not impinge on the United Kingdom's obligations.

They were wrong so to conclude. The Court of Appeal in *Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Ikhtlaq* (unreported, July 15, 1996) and *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Shivananthan* (unreported, May 21, 1997) assumed without hearing argument that the question could be considered on a section 8 appeal. After hearing full argument in the present case, the court concluded that their assumption was correct.

The Secretary of State and the appellate authorities would do well in future to adopt the approach which was set out in paragraph 8

of the Joint Position and the test suggested by Justice of Appeal Linden.

On the question whether appellate authorities should consider grounds not raised in the notice of appeal, it was the duty of such authorities to apply their knowledge of Convention jurisprudence to the facts as established by them when determining whether it would be a breach of the Convention to refuse a claimant leave to enter as a refugee.

They were not limited in their consideration by the arguments actually advanced by the claimant or his representative. If data of Lord Justice Hobhouse in *Anandandaramiah v Immigration Appeal Tribunal* (1996) 1mm AR 514, 519 was interpreted as adopting a more restrictive approach it should not be followed.

It would, however, be wrong that mere arguability should be the criterion to be applied: a higher hurdle was required. Appellate authorities should focus primarily on the arguments advanced before them, whether advanced orally before the special adjudicator or in a written notice of appeal before the appeal tribunal.

But they were not required to engage in a search for new points. If there was a readily discernible and obvious point of Convention law which favoured the applicant although he had not taken it, then the special adjudicator should apply it in his decision.

On the facts of the present case, however, the appeal tribunal had not erred in refusing leave to appeal.

Solicitors: Nathan & Co; Treasury Solicitor; Treasury Solicitor.

Mr Straker had asserted that, purely as a matter of the true construction of section 22(1)(a), the secretary of state could not lawfully authorise a compulsory purchase order unless he was satisfied that the development to which it related would probably be carried out.

He referred to the conjunctive phrase "in order to" which he said might have been omitted, its presence revealing that there had to be a direct connection between the exercise of the power and the object in view.

His Lordship rejected that argument. Of course the secretary of state might only deploy the power to confirm an order for the purpose

for which the subsection conferred it. However, there was nothing in the words of section 22(1)(a) to impose what would amount to a requirement of precedent fact before the secretary of state might authorise the order.

Had Parliament intended that the secretary of state's power should only arise if he were satisfied on the balance of probability that the development would be carried out, it would have so provided in clear terms.

Solicitors: Ben Leighton, Bullivant Jones & Co, Liverpool; Treasury Solicitor; Addleshaw Broth & Co.

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The Court said, inter alia, that under article 3(1) of Directive 75/442 as amended, the member states were to take measures to encourage, first, the prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness, and second, the recovery of waste with a view to extracting secondary raw materials or the use of waste as a source of energy, and the system of supervision established by that directive was reinforced by Directive 91/156.

Article 2(a) of Regulation No 259/93, referring to article 1(a) of Directive 75/442 as amended, laid down a common definition of the concept of waste which was of direct application, even to shipments within any member state.

National legislation which defined waste as excluding substances and objects which were capable of economic reutilisation was not compatible with the relevant Community provisions.

The system of supervision and control, including the requirement of authorisation or registration for undertakings which collected, disposed of or recovered waste on a professional basis, was intended to cover all objects and substances discarded by their owners, even if they had a commercial value and were collected on a commercial basis for recycling, reclamation or re-use.

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Summer camps ease holiday hell

Activity trips soothe a ruffled parent's feathers during the school break, says Phil Revell

MANY parents view the school summer holidays with horror, knowing that the phrases "I'm bored" and "Do we have to?" will haunt them for six weeks.

At such times, many parents must look enviously across the Atlantic, where parents pack their children off to camp and get on with their lives.

The Peanut cartoons have educated us all about the realities of summer camp. Charlie Brown will suffer terrible angst about his inability to form relationships. Lucy will boss everyone around, and Pigpen will avoid all contact with soap and water. But how close is the cartoon to reality?

Sixteen-year-old Max Mogren, from Winona in Minnesota, has been to camp every year since he was three. For the first few years, these camps were family affairs, with parents tagging along until he was old enough to cope on his own.

This summer has marked his first break from camp. Instead, he is "homestay" across Europe with families selected by the People to People organisation. "I really enjoyed camp," he says. "I looked forward to it."

Max's camp included canoe expeditions on the Mississippi. His stay usually lasted a week, sometimes two, which is the first departure from the cartoon truth. Few American families send their kids to camp for the whole school holiday.

Another myth is exploded when we learn that most parents remain at work. Summer camp is not an opportunity for American parents to go on holiday without their children.

Summer camps are an American phenomenon. In Britain commercially run activity holidays for children have only recently achieved any kind of success. One reason for this is that middle-class parents often send their children to boarding school and are therefore keen to re-acquaint themselves with their offspring during the summer break. And for most of this century the Scout and Guide movements have provided camping holidays for children at a fraction of the cost of a commercial holiday.

Now that more women go out to work, childcare has become more important. Parents are also keen to encourage children to develop social skills and become more independent, and camps offer a secure environment for young people to spread their wings. The result has been the slow growth of summer holiday centres

catering for unaccompanied children. PGL, based in Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, has been offering water-based activity holidays for 40 years. The founder, Peter Gordon Lawrence, organised his first trip using two canoes and a coal lorry. Since then the company has expanded into the schools market and now offers holidays across Europe. A more recent provider is Superchoice, with centres on the Isle of Wight and at Weymouth, Dorset. Superchoice offers 50 activities at camps which can accommodate up to 600 children at a time.

The 10,000 camps throughout America include many specialist venues, such as a music camp and even one for dyslexics. British parents have less choice, but there are sailing centres, drama holidays and eco-camps for the environmentally aware.

The Island Cruising Club, in Salcombe, Devon, offers sailing weeks for about £400 all in. Children stay in a converted Mersey ferry boat, the *Egremont*.

The cost of such activity holidays is usually about £300-£400 but accommodation is often basic. Few match American camps, where children typically

stay in chalets and are supervised 24 hours a day by camp counsellors, who sleep in the same dormitory. Families can pay \$3,000-£4,000 (£1,900-£2,500) a child for summer camp, a price that reflects the staffing ratios and standards of accommodation.

Many British providers continue to use tents. Not the canvas ones that we remember from Scout camp, but robust plastic boxes. These may be practical but hardly offer the highest standards of comfort. Staffing ratios can also vary widely. Since the Lyme Regis disaster a few years ago, when four teenagers were drowned on a canoe trip, activity providers have radically improved their approach to instruction. But some centres are saving costs by bunching children into groups which are too big.

THE British weather is the main reason why summer camps are unlikely to become as popular here as in the United States. Camps in the Midwest and on the West Coast can rely on long, hot summers. In Britain, camps that look inviting in sunny weather become endurance events when it rains for days on end. But if the alternative is six weeks at home with frustrated children, perhaps the weather isn't so important after all.

Illiteracy and ignorance

give the lie to better marks, says examiner

Jim Brennan

A familiar assertion will be made later this month, when A-level results are published, that standards have not fallen. Anyone who read the examination scripts I spent the summer marking would dispute that. I graded nearly 350 A-level papers in classical civilisation, from a random distribution of centres throughout England and Wales, half of them independent schools.

These candidates had spent two years on a course that encompassed Roman society in the late Republic (80 BC to AD 14), Cicero's life and works, two other authors (Virgil and Juvenal), Roman art and architecture. In three hours they were required to write four short essays chosen from 25 topics.

The number of scripts I marked is a reasonably representative sample, compared with the total of about 1,200 candidates.

In a fortnight, the results will emerge. They will be much the same as last year, or possibly better. The work I saw tells a disturbing story. I was able to award a mark above 80 per cent to only one candidate, above 70 per cent to only six, and marks well below 50 per cent to the majority. More than 30 scored below ten, and there were two zeros. But these marks will be scaled up and the true picture will be concealed.

Was I needlessly demanding? Far from it. I spent a lot of time re-reading papers to find a reason for adding marks. The board for which I mark does not permit penalties for errors in spelling and punctuation. If it did, many candidates would have received a minus mark.

These candidates were in their last year of secondary education. Presumably they chose, or were encouraged to choose, this subject because they were thought to have some interest in, or aptitude for, literature and history. Their average age would be about 18. The majority of them will be saying to universities and, eventually, employers, that they have an A level in classics, which sounds quite impressive. Yet almost all those whose papers I read

are as close to illiteracy as they can be.

Hardly any of them, for instance, offered an essay that had any shape or structure. Instead there were stream-of-consciousness pieces, amounting to what-ever jumbled ideas occurred at random. Knowledge of what constitutes a sentence was rare, punctuation haphazard and spelling bizarre.

Most of these young people will next year be in some form of higher education. Yet many think that allowed is spelt aloud, that "I would of" is correct, that there is no difference between to, too and two, or between there and their; no one

apparently has ever taught them the rules about "ei" and "ie" or that nouns ending in "y", such as ally, become allies in the plural. I could go on and on; but the fact is that these were rules I had mastered when I was eight years old, not through any virtue of mine, but because trouble was taken by my teachers.

There were other worrying trends. To read the course, you would have encountered hundreds of times names such as Caesar, Pompey, Juvenal, the Senate, Agrippa and so on. Yet these were routinely misspelt.

Some of the essays called for evaluation

and interpretation of information, but some did not. Sadly, a great deal of the information included was wildly inaccurate. I do not mean by an occasional candidate, but by all the candidates from a centre; thus they had all been taught inaccurately and supplied with false data on the topic.

A minor but irritating element must be the handwriting, which I often struggled with. If I could not read it, I could scarcely be expected to award marks.

So what is going on? Are standards falling? Of course, they are; but there are good reasons for it.

Principally, it is a factor of the absurd expansion in post-secondary education of the past 20 years. The population has not increased noticeably, yet more children are staying on after the school-leaving age and attempting A levels, and then going on to still further education.

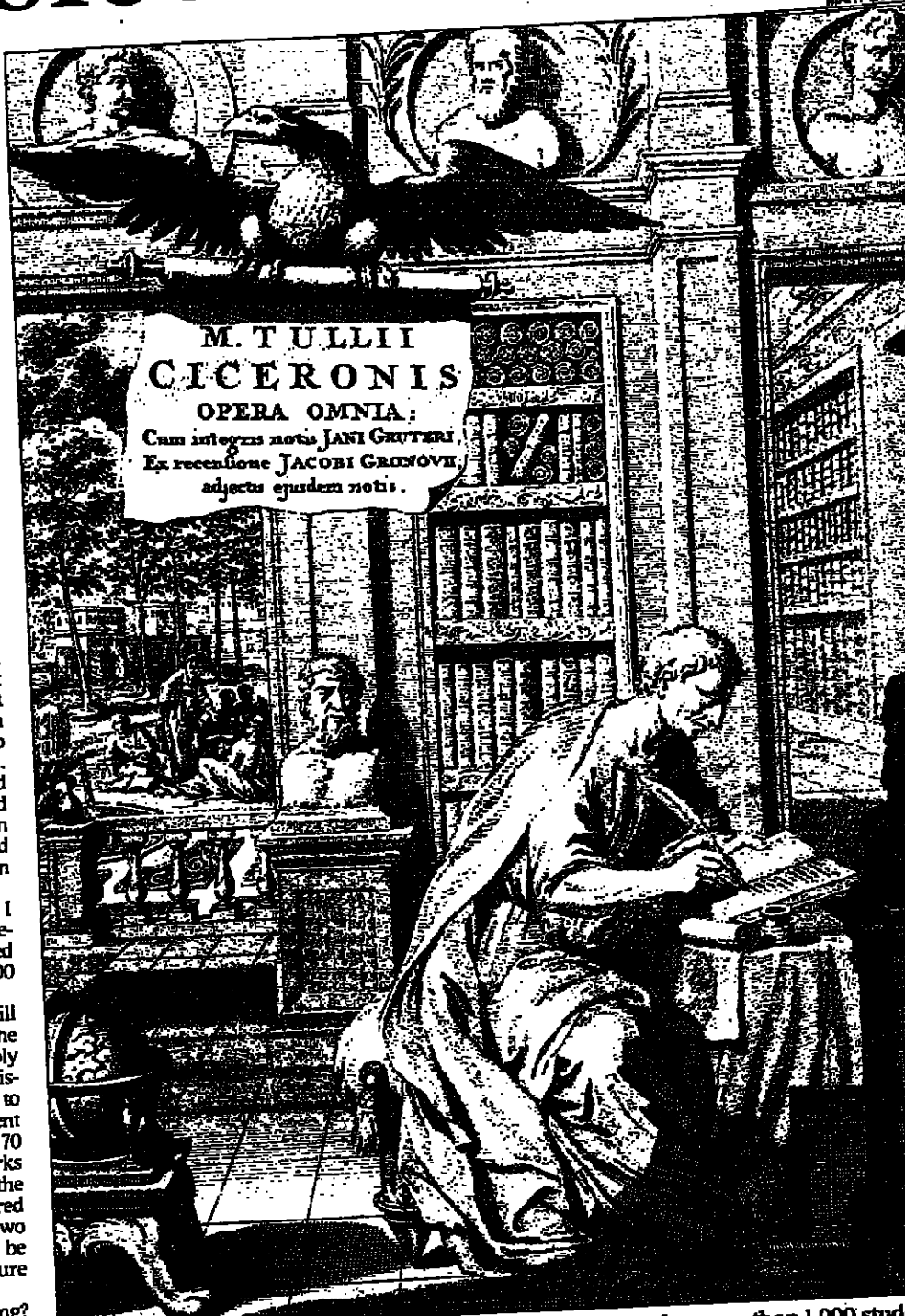
There is, naturally, less time available in the school timetable for each subject, as other, new ones, have proliferated. Syllabuses have had to be whittled down. But there is a great difference between whittling and diluting. For instance, in neither Latin or Greek at A level is it now obligatory to translate into the language; that is dilution. Nor does one read so many set texts; that is whittling.

Having held two headmasterships, as well as in my earlier career run a large classics department and, since retirement, taught in a flourishing department in an independent school, I am in a position to suggest at least some of the causes of what is happening.

For certain, many new graduates are insufficiently taught and, in my subject, have read far less of the literature and know less of the history than I did when I graduated. That is curable; they can get down to repairing the gaps.

The real solution lies with the teachers and the question of how they are prepared to give to correcting their pupils' essays. I always found that if I marked meticulously, discussed the mistakes in class and poured scorn and sarcasm on elementary spelling and grammatical blunders, they disappeared. Equally, statements had to be accurate and, if not, had to be corrected and re-submitted; and opinions had to be supported by quoted evidence.

Not only did this result in years of success in examinations, but, more important, it was very good training for the day when facts and evaluation were essential in their career.



Cicero's life and works: part of a two-year A-level course for more than 1,000 students

Sue Fox reports on an annual summer school that is hitting a high note

Through their powerful Music for Everyone programme, The Avison Charitable Trust, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, has established an annual summer school which is unlike any masterclass situation anywhere in the world.

Students, teachers, eminent professional musicians and children come together to experience a musical journey with Benjamin Zander, the English-born conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, professor at the New England Conservatory and visiting professor at the Royal College of Music in London. He says: "Education is about moving obstacles. 'I have a question' is the best possible state of mind for a human being." In Newcastle, there are lots of questions.

The journey with Professor Zander may change lives, but there are no auditions and no fees. "This is not a performance course," he says. "We take the first 35 students who sign up."

Students include a 15-year-old who has been learning the clarinet for 18 months, a primary-school music teacher, a professor of music from Eastern Europe who is living in the North East, the lead violinist of one of the finest chamber groups in Europe, a jazz trumpeter and two singers.

One young soprano is having a difficult time at college because her teachers keep pointing her down. The other singer is a professional viola player, with a beautiful mezzo voice who has always wanted to sing.

Gordon Dixon runs the trust and is managing director of the Avison Baroque Ensemble—the first period orchestra in the North.

The trust and ensemble are named after Charles Avison, a distinguished 18th-century English musician who spent his life in Newcastle, establishing the town as one of the most prominent music centres in the country.

The summer school, now in its eighth year, was started by Mr Dixon, whose life was changed ten years ago when he attended one of Professor Zander's masterclasses in London.

"Ben made a promise that anyone who stayed for all 26 hours of classes would make a breakthrough in their music-

A gift from the heart for music lovers



Leading students on a musical journey: Professor Zander

making," he says. "I stayed, and it did make a huge difference. Later, I worked with Ben in Boston and started taking over some of my musician friends. Eventually, it seemed to make more sense for me to find a way to bring Ben to Newcastle."

Mr Dixon, 38, and viola player Colin Start, 40, who also promotes access to music through community projects in schools and for special needs groups in the region, grew up in an education system in which free music lessons and instruments were

available free of charge.

"We come from backgrounds where learning to play an instrument would not have been possible without that help," he says. "Now, funding for music education has been so drastically cut, we have to find a structure for young people to see what music can bring to their lives. When I take musicians into schools, they don't pretend to be teachers. That's not what it's about. They are musicians who discover beautiful ways of encouraging children to think about sounds, timbre, images and colour."

Mr Start believes that the dire situation of music in most British schools will lead to a shortage of good music teachers and musicians for orchestras. He and Mr Dixon are clear about the trust's work. Mr Start says: "Some local organisations have moved into 'education' because it attracts funding, but 'education' was our starting point. It is the heart of what we do."

During his time in Newcastle last year, the charismatic Professor Zander, about whom the BBC is filming a major arts documentary, was asked by Mr Dixon to address 16-year-olds at Blakelaw Secondary—one of the named failing schools in the area.

"Afterwards, we gave them tickets for a concert of the Brahms Double Concerto with the Newcastle Philharmonic which Ben was conducting."

"None of them had ever been to a performance of classical music before, but they had such a good time, they also came to the next series of concerts we did with the ensemble."

When Mr Start takes musicians into schools, he often finds that the biggest troublemaker in a class is lit up by the power of music.

Professor Zander says: "When I teach and when I conduct, I talk to the passion in that person. Music is a gift we take with us throughout our lives. It is a gift to give away to the person who is listening. You don't play an instrument with your hands; you play with your heart."

The Avison Charitable Trust Music for Everyone education programme contacts Gordon Dixon, Louise Swann or Colin Start on 0191 226 0799.

10p

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Double Trigger, ridden by Roberts, stays on gallantly to deny Classic Cliche and Double Eclipse in a thrilling finish to the Goodwood Cup yesterday

Double Trigger rekindles enthusiasm

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a morning of showers and slate grey skies which wiped away the glorious from Goodwood, Double Trigger and Double Eclipse yesterday picked the perfect moment to disprove the old saying that lightning never strikes in the same place twice.

It was two years ago that the Mark Johnston-trained equine brothers locked horns in one of the most memorable runnings of the Goodwood Cup since it was first staged in 1812. As Trigger just prevailed over the younger Eclipse after an epic duel up the straight, the cheers carried across the English Channel and racing sages muttered that we would never see the like of it again. Well, yesterday we did — against all the odds.

In the intervening period, Double

Eclipse has suffered the kind of setbacks which would have ended the career of most horses. He effectively races on three legs nowadays and has not had a proper workout on the Middleham gallops for 14 months. Meanwhile, at the age of six, Double Trigger's mind tends to be on the opposite sex rather than running quickly — with inevitable consequences. He has lost more supporters than the Conservative Party this year — and started at 16-1 yesterday.

The final insult for Trigger came when Jason Weaver, on board for most of his 11 victories, deserted him in favour of his younger brother. When the stalls opened yesterday, Michael Roberts, who has taken over in the saddle, did not need long to find out why.

After being kicked into an early lead, Double Trigger soon made it plain he would rather pull himself up. Time and again Roberts had to

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: AMYAS
(2.45 Goodwood)
Next best: Bright Water
(3.20 Goodwood)

niggle, cajole and bully his mount into concentrating on matters in hand. As the field bunched up behind the leader, it seemed only a question of when he would be overtaken.

When the challenge finally arrived, it was delivered initially by his brother. Roberts made one more demand on his horse and, somewhat to the surprise of the South African rider, Double Trigger responded and remembered how to win. For a few moments, it looked as though Double Eclipse would again claim the runner-up spot. In the end Classic Cliche, the 5-4 favourite who had

been last at the top of the hill, spoiled the party by grabbing second place — but it mattered little as the crowd cheered the winner and Johnston to the echo.

"That was fantastic," Johnston said. "I have said for some time that Double Trigger has the class and should not be written off after three bad runs. It doesn't mean that he's thrown in the towel. Remember he is a six-year-old entire horse — they think about other things."

Henry Cecil will have every right to think about other things this morning — such as winning the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket next May — after a deeply impressive performance by Dangers Drawn, who provided the ten-times champion trainer with his first success in the Salomon Brothers Richmond Stakes.

Confronted by a wall of horses in front of him approaching the final furlong, it appeared for a few

moments as though Kieren Fallon would be thwarted on the heavily backed favourite. A gap then appeared and the Diesis colt displayed classic acceleration to burst between Lord Kintyre and Linden Heights and win handsomely.

Cecil reeled off a list of future big-race engagements. Suffice to say, the colt, bred and owned by Cliveden Stud, is in everything but the Boat Race — and looks a worthy 7-1 favourite for the 2,000 Guineas.

Earlier, John Reid had produced the riding performance of the week to win the Oak Tree Stakes on Dazzle. Having decided the best tactics were to wait, wait and wait again, Reid finally unleashed the Gone West filly inside the final furlong to score a shade comfortably. Michael Scoute unfortunately left it until after the race to announce: "We had her in tip top shape today and I was very confident she would win."

Dettori switch to pay dividends on Great Child

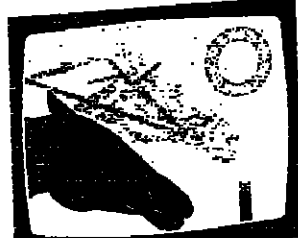
GOODWOOD
BBC2

2.15: Shaheen, disappointing at Royal Ascot last time, showed solid form in mile maidens during the spring, before dropping to this trip to get off the mark in decisive fashion at Kempton. That race has worked out well — the third, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth have all won — but he has to be opposed with the worst draw in the race.

Frankie Dettori switches from Jorjacks to the Michael Scute-trained Great Child, freshened up by a break since his unlucky run at Epsom. The better ground suits, and he acts on a sharp track (has won at Chester). Jawhari is unexposed, but Fun Galore's status as an intriguing alternative — he got bogged down in the mud last time, after shaping with promise on his reappearance — would be diminished by more rain.

2.45: Labeq's impressive reappearance win came in a soft maiden, and he meets a different calibre of animal here, notably Amyas — unlucky not to win on his first attempt at this trip in a competitive, strongly-run race at Newmarket. Patriot Games is another unfortunate not to have won his latest start, likewise hampered at a crucial stage. More rain would place a question mark over Southern Wind, who flagged in soft ground at Royal Ascot, but there is no doubt that he was subsequently ill served by the slow pace in the Magnet Cup.

By contrast, the better ground should bring out the best in Lord Eurolink, who could have been ridden more positively last time and may have been laid out for this. At the bottom of the handicap, obvious concerns about Sword Arms, tried over a longer distance and running on easier ground, should be discounted; his trainer, Rog-



TODAY'S RACING ON TELEVISION

er Charlton, is not the sort to gamble blindly.

3.20: Bright Water is the subject of excellent gallops reports, and certainly impressed on his Chester reappearance. A brother to Tenby, he should stay the extra two furlongs well, and his tail-swishing has not yet revealed anything sinister. All told, however, he may go off at a false price, giving 13lb to Humorous, who got jarred up last year and will relish the better ground today. He was unsuited by the slow early pace at York last time, and his trainer exalts at this meeting — as does that of the inconsistent Medaille Militaire, who ran well over course and distance on his reappearance.

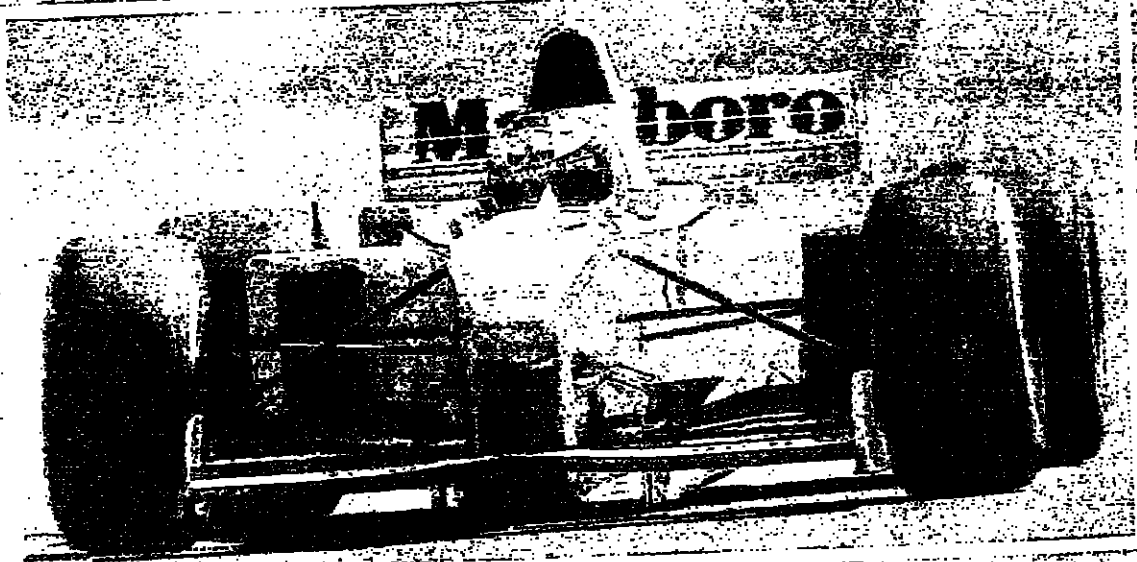
3.50: Lady Alexander exploited the air of nervousness that surrounds the typed King Of Kings at the Curragh, bravely winning in a photo-finish as the runner-up was given an easy time. But she endured a hard race and drops back to the minimum, on a very sharp course, and preference is for Princess Natalie. David Barron, not the sort to get carried away by a horse, significantly started her off in a Doncaster conditions race, rather than a maiden — and she became the only horse to beat Desert Lady in her first three starts. Easy ground will help her cause, which may not be the case for the speedy types. It's All Relative and Mugello.

CHRIS MCGRATH

EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION

Fantasy race hots up for our £25,000 top prize

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Marlboro
World Championship Team



THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score after the European Grand Prix on October 26, will win £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro World Championship team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up. The manager with the best score at the Hungarian GP wins a trip for two to the Belgian GP courtesy of BAC Sport which includes return travel by Eurostar and three nights' B&B in a four-star hotel in Liege.

0171-456 7100

HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED AT HOCKENHEIM

Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole G Berger 30 points; 2 G Fisichella 25; 3 M Hakkinen 24; 4 M Schumacher 23; 5 H-H Frenzen 22; 6 J Alesi 21; 7 R Schumacher 20; 8 D Coulthard 19; 9 J Villeneuve 18; 10 E Irvine 17; 11 J Trulli 16; 12 R Barrichello 15; 13 D Hill 14; 14 J Herbert 13; 15 J Magnussen 12; 16 P Diniz 11; 17 S Nakano 10; 18 N Fontana 9; 19 M Salo 8; 20 J Verstappen 7. Finishing points (scored for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st G Berger 60 points; 2nd M Schumacher 50; 3rd M Hakkinen 40; 4th J Trulli 30; 5th R Schumacher 29; 6th J Alesi 28; 7th S Nakano 27; 8th D Hill 26; 9th N Fontana 25; 10th J Verstappen 24; 11th G Fisichella 23. (Only 10 finished. G Fisichella was classified although he did not finish the race.)

Lap points (one point for each lap completed): G Berger 45 points; M Schumacher 45; J Alesi 45; S Nakano 45; J Trulli 45; R Schumacher 44; J Verstappen 44; G Fisichella 40; D Hill 44; N Fontana 44; J Verstappen 44; J Villeneuve 33; R Barrichello 33; M Salo 33; J Magnussen 27; U Katayama 23; J Herbert 8; P Diniz 8; E Irvine 1; D Coulthard 1; H-H Frenzen 1. Improvement from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place): J Verstappen 30 points; S Nakano 30; N Fontana 27; J Trulli 21; D Hill 15; M Schumacher 6; R Schumacher 6. Fastest lap time of grand prix: G Berger 10 points. Penalty points. Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted): J Villeneuve -10 points; R Barrichello -10; R Barrichello -10; E Irvine -10; D Coulthard -10; R Barrichello -10; H-H Frenzen -10; J Herbert -10; M Salo -10; U Katayama -10; P Diniz -10; G Fisichella -10; J Magnussen -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): T Marques -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none. CONSTRUCTORS Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Benetton 30 points; Ferrari 25; McLaren 24; Prost 23; Jordan 22; Arrows 19; Sauber 18; Tyrrell 17. Penalty points incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Williams -20 points; Stewart -20; Ferrari -10; McLaren -10; Jordan -10; Arrows -10; Sauber -10; Tyrrell -10; Minardi -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): Minardi -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

The top of our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard in the race for our £25,000 top prize is headed by L Ackland from Guildford, Surrey. His team, Aston O, has a total of 7,333 points after scoring 568 points in last week's German Grand Prix at Hockenheim. His team comprised M Schumacher, Alesi, Irvine, Trulli, Fisichella, Fontana, Benetton, McLaren, Ferrari, Sauber, Minardi and Lola. T Murphy of Altrincham, Cheshire, wins a trip for two to the Belgian Grand Prix. His team, Tel Stars, has 6,263 points in the competition. He scored 778 points at Hockenheim with Hakkinen, Berger, M Schumacher, Trulli, R Schumacher, Fontana, McLaren, Ferrari, Benetton, Sauber, Arrows and Tyrrell. M Collins from Royston, Herts, has 5,822 points overall and wins a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game. His team, Scuderia Scommessa, scored 772 points last Sunday.

TO ENTER make three selections from each of the four groups below and call 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the Belgian Grand Prix and other grands prix where bonus points apply. TRANSFERS Change up to four selections before the Hungarian Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK), before noon on Thursday, August 7. CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position by calling 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK). CLARIFICATION: Rule 2 applies to the transfers and replacements on the table below. The cumulative figure for Prost published after the Canadian Grand Prix has been adjusted downwards by 10 points as his car did not finish in that race. All entrants scores are correct.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE GERMAN GRAND PRIX

| POS | TEAM NAME | MANAGER NAME | POINTS |
|-----|--------------------|----------------|--------|
| 1 | Aston O | L Ackland | 7333 |
| 2 | Dragon Racing | R Davis | 7211 |
| 3 | Gwilt F1 | D Gwilt | 7199 |
| 4 | Coolsport | D Coolican | 7185 |
| 5 | The Tigglers | Mr R | 7117 |
| 6 | Cathy's Clowns | Mrs C Robinson | 7117 |
| 7 | Bertzotti Racing | A Scott | 7117 |
| 8 | F1 Erb | S Erhorn | 7088 |
| 9 | Smith-Astra | D Smith | 7076 |
| 10 | Formula Uno | P Tabone | 7071 |
| 11 | Sour Mash | R Owers | 7067 |
| 12 | Willi And Nerve | A Mewes | 7067 |
| 13 | Cartell Racing | S Dimetto | 7038 |
| 14 | Becks Racing Team | M Kingdon | 7038 |
| 15 | Parkhurst Racing | L Danson | 7038 |
| 16 | Scuderia Vincitore | S Lorenti | 7031 |
| 17 | Midnight Rovers | C Newman | 7022 |
| 18 | Cyclops | R Bohee | 7022 |
| 19 | Goldfinch | S Goldfinch | 7013 |
| 20 | Freaks | F Retkovsky | 7011 |
| 21 | What Alesi Bunch! | N Rowe | 7004 |
| 22 | Scuderia Vitulli | Mr Vitulli | 6985 |
| 23 | Salanco | Ms S Dankevics | 6975 |
| 24 | Chris-Williams | C Quagliero | 6974 |
| 25 | Laura's Rob | J Smith | 6974 |

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the German GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

| DRIVERS | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------------|---------|
| GROUP A | | GROUP B | |
| 01 D Hill | 99 698 | 13 J Trulli | 112 111 |
| 02 M Schumacher | 124 1197 | 14 J Verstappen | 105 7 |
| 03 J Villeneuve | 41 929 | 15 U Katayama | 13 5 |
| 04 E Irvine | 8 868 | 16 P Diniz | 9 4 |
| 05 J Alesi | 94 1091 | 17 R Rosset | 0 0 |
| 06 G Berger | 145 798 | 18 R Schumacher | 100 8 |
| 07 M Hakkinen | 109 845 | 19 G Fisichella | 78 9 |
| 08 D Coulthard | 10 798 | 20 S Nakano | 112 8 |
| 09 R Barrichello | 38 486 | 21 N Fontana | 105 9 |
| 10 H-H Frenzen | 18 848 | 22 T Marques | -10 5 |
| 11 J Herbert | 11 751 | 23 J Magnussen | 29 5 |
| 12 M Salo | 31 769 | 24 V Sospiri | 0 0 |
| CONSTRUCTORS | | | |
| GROUP C | | GROUP D | |
| 25 Williams | -20 107 | 31 Arrows | 9 - |
| 26 Ferrari | 15 175 | 32 Sauber | 8 5 |
| 27 McLaren | 14 114 | 33 Tyrrell | 7 - |
| 28 Benetton | 30 185 | 34 Minardi | -20 1 |
| 29 Jordan | 12 94 | 35 S Stewart | -20 - |
| 30 Prost | 23 113 | 36 Lola | 0 0 |

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 405 001
+44 990 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls). For inquiries call 01582 702 720, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm

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TELEVISION CHOICE

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-98.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 908. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1187, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1083, 1038.

Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Griffiths and John McManera.

Rescue scenarios and the swimsuit question

Time was clearly running out. Up to his neck in local opposition and exhausted by the effort of trying to stay democratically elected, the victim now faced a new threat — an unstoppable tide of dark oppression that would sweep away everything before it. Time, I thought, for the reassuring plink-plink of the 999 theme and some sensible advice from Michael Biehn. "If you ever find yourself governor of Hong Kong, try not to panic."

Alas not. When help did finally arrive it was in the shape of the Prince of Wales, the Royal Yacht Britannia and Jonathan Dimbleby. The first two were there to make sure that Chris Patten made it physically out of Hong Kong. Dimbleby was there to ensure that his reputation escaped with him.

The last Governor (BBC1) had reached the final chapter.

Dimbleby's *999* theme, it quickly became clear, was

tion. Of the "through train of democracy" that we have heard so much about in recent weeks, there was barely a mention. Nor was there an update of what had happened since the handover. Instead, we had some fairly baffling constitutional stuff, a well-intentioned chat about human rights and an entertaining if shameful row about passports.

The latter, not only allowed Patten to claim one of the few victories of his governorship but also to put one over on Michael Howard, who had popped in just to remind us why the Conservatives lost the election and for Patten to label him a racist. As Howard, in his capacity as former Home Secretary, wriggled, our man in Hong Kong gloated: "I'm delighted that he's changed his mind — shows what a broad-minded chap he is."

Eventually, however, it was all over. Patten's bigness up trembled,

he signed a few last bits of legislation and that was it: dun-dun-dun. The lovely Lavender helped him pack and his three pretty daughters pitched up to steal the next day's front pages. The band played on... but then they always do on such occasions.

A little earlier, a slightly re-modelled but still recognisable version of the plink-plink theme tune, meant it really was time for 999, or rather its summer stablemate, 999 International (BBC1). This turned out to be an excuse for Michael Biehn to fly around the world and film expensive-looking links and for Juliet Morris to try out a new swimming costume.

Now, it's only a few years since the cosse question was the toughest obstacle a female newsreader faced as she sought to diversify her career. Did you do cosse shots — or not? Angela Rippon high-kicked

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

but did not do cosse. The Misses Ford and Scott did neither — I'd definitely have remembered. But then came Jill Dando, who after a couple of seasons of doing imaginative things with a sarong, clearly arrived at the decision that cosse are too short — especially when there are unprincipled, thigh-flashing weather girls around. These days the waters of the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Indian

Ocean are forever lapsing around a shapely Dando thigh as she delivers a piece to camera.

Where Dando leads, Morris is never far behind, which is why she seems to have spent most of the summer in a swimsuit, was last night skimming across the Gulf of Honduras in a blue halter-neck and will no doubt return to present a new series of *The House Detectives* in something small, yellow and polka-dot.

In Belize she looked pretty but rather hot. But nothing like as hot as the actor playing the marine biologist who had just swum for six hours across shark-infested waters after his speedboat sank. His suburb was going to need an awful lot of calamine lotion.

Perhaps it was the distances involved, but the emergencies didn't quite have the impact of the home-grown variety. Then there was the different attitude of those who had been rescued. Rather

than showing the grovelling gratitude to the emergency services that we are accustomed to, most of last night's survivors placed their faith in a higher authority. The Belize water-taxi owner promptly changed his salvaged boat's name from *Can't Touch This* to *By the Grace of God*, while the Swiss paraglider rattled on about the "inner voice" that kept her calm as she dangled from a tower crane.

Earlier, *Pilgrims Rest* (BBC1) made a modestly encouraging start, which is about as good as it gets for new sitcoms. Helped by a new hair-do (he's not got into his origins, I couldn't hear all the letters) Gary Olsen moved confidently on from *2point1 Children* to star as Bob, who bought a successful transport café six years ago, only to see it blighted by the building of a bypass. Gwen Taylor was on more familiar ground as Tilly, the sister

who loaned him half the money to buy the place and now wants it back because she's been left by her husband. With the finesse that Tilly's husband left her for a man and that Bob, of course, hasn't any money, that is the situation.

As for the comedy, it was fine without being mould-breaking and nothing like as funny as a hyped-up studio audience seemed to find it. Are lines such as "in France we eat our snails, we do not give them driving licences" really worth a round of applause? However, there were moments worth a chuckle and the supporting cast, while plucked straight from the back catalogue of comic stereotype (preppy waitress, lugubrious policeman, dim-witted, etc.) seemed promising. For a moment, I thought Didier, the French lorry-driver, represented a genuine spark of originality... but then I remembered *Allo, Allo* and the moment passed.

BBC1

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (55159)

7.00am *BBC Breakfast News* (7) (55206)

9.00am *Breakfast News Extra* (7) (55206)

9.30am *Ready, Steady, Cook* (55206)

9.50am *Ready, Steady, Cook* (55206)

10.00am *The Restaurant* (55206)

10.45am *Carry On... Up the Khyber* (55206)

11.00am *News* (7) (55206)

11.05am *Good Morning Britain* (55206)

11.30am *News* (7) (55206)

12.00pm *News* (7) (55206)

12.05pm *Wipeout* (7) (55206)

12.30pm *News* (7) (55206)

1.00pm *News* (7) (55206)

1.30pm *News* (7) (55206)

1.40pm *Columbus* (55206)

3.10pm *Quincy* (55206)

4.00pm *Popeye* (55206)

4.30pm *Popeye* (55206)

5.00pm *Record Breakers* (7) (55206)

5.30pm *Neighbours* (7) (55206)

6.00pm *News* (7) (55206)

6.30pm *Regional News* (7) (55206)

7.00pm *Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook* (55206)

7.30pm *Tom Clancy's Op Center* (55206)

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BBC2

6.00am *Open University: Bejourn* (194951)

7.15pm *Free Press* (55206)

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HTV

6.00am *GMTV* (704777)

9.25am *Win, Lose or Draw* (7) (551333)

9.55am *Judge Judy* (7) (5529159)

10.20am *News* (7) (5514807)

10.25am *Regional News* (7) (5513178)

10.30am *Desperate Rescue* A fact-based drama

10.35am *Desperate Rescue* A fact-based drama

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CRICKET 36

Essex lay down law as rain frustrates championship rivals

SPORT

FRIDAY AUGUST 1 1997

GOLF 37

Rocca swift to get back into swing after injury



BAF warns of more drug abuse

Christie leads condemnation of shorter bans

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATHENS

LINFORD CHRISTIE may not be here at the world championships to run but he moved swiftly yesterday to support the British Athletic Federation (BAF) in its condemnation of a decision to reduce drug bans, for first offences, from four years to two. Christie and the Federation warned that the change would precipitate an increase in the number of athletes taking drugs.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) announced the reduction in penalties yesterday, saying that longer bans would be too expensive to fight in a climate of increasing recourse to the courts. It said that, in some countries, four-year bans on athletes who take drugs were unenforceable and that it would be unfair to continue to operate a two-tier punishment system where competitors received suspensions of varying lengths for similar offences.

Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, said that the world governing body had been forced into this position because "the lawyers are un-

fortunately, very expensive". The BAF, however, wants no relaxing of the regulations, despite facing a damages claim of close to £1 million from Diane Modahl which threatens to bankrupt it.

Modahl is suing after a drugs test in 1994, which resulted in her suspension, was shown to be unreliable. The IAAF has given no financial support to the BAF which was following IAAF procedures. Under the IAAF, evidence is that no price is too high to pay for protecting the health of the sport.

"I thought the thing was going forwards but we are going backwards all of a sudden," Christie said. "I think it leaves it open now for people to take drugs. We should have made it eight years or a life ban. The deterrent is not strong enough."

Nebiolo emphasised that two years was the minimum suspension for a first offence and that "if a (national) federation chooses to give 50 years, it is free to do so". It is now up to the BAF to decide whether it wishes unilaterally to retain the four-year suspension, but it is improbable that British athletes will be singled out for harsher punishments.

Christie, however, appeared to oppose that. "Someone has to take the stand and I think we should," he said. "The majority of our athletes are drug-free and we should be able to prove it to the rest of the world."

Alan Warner, the BAF vice-chairman, voiced vigorous opposition to the IAAF congress before the decision was taken: "With the package of rules we currently have, and increased out-of-competition and no-testing, many of our old abuses seem to be under control," Warner said. "In some events the decline in performances is easily and well documented. The current combination of measures seems to strike an effective balance."

"As a deterrent, the rules give a clear message. Reduce this deterrent and there will undoubtedly be many more athletes who will take that chance because two years is not that long. This is not the time to signal to the world that we have lessened our resolve."

Nebiolo, not unreasonably, claimed that athletics had a more thorough testing programme than any other leading sport. However, it took a backward step last March when it reinstated two German athletes after they had served two years because their national law had ruled that a four-year ban was unreasonable. The same would apply, the IAAF said, to athletes from at least eight countries, including France, Russia and Spain.

"Some national courts do not support the four-year ban but they are very few," Warner contested. "Around 95 per cent of all IAAF nations have no such problems. Once again we

'It is high time that we found men and women of courage to stand against the warping of the meaning of sport'

Rob Hughes, page 38

WHAT OTHER SPORTS DO

Badminton: Exclusion from the game, possibly for life.
Baseball: First offence — two years; second offence — life ban.
Billiards and snooker: Probable disqualification from tournament; repeat offence may indicate exclusion from World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.
Bodybuilding: First offence — one year; second offence — two years; third offence — life ban.
Cycling: Professionals: First offence — disqualification plus suspension of six to 12 months plus fine and loss of points; Second offence — disqualification plus suspension of one to two years plus fine and loss of points; Third offence — disqualification plus permanent disqualification and fine. Finding of illegal levels of caffeine, narcotics, anabolic steroids or aphrodisiacs: first offence — disqualification plus suspension of up to three months and fine and loss of points; Second offence — disqualification plus permanent disqualification and fine. Amateurs: First offence — three-month suspension; Second offence — two-year suspension; Third offence — possibility of complete exclusion. Steroid, anabolic steroid or similar substances: first offence — two-year suspension; Second offence — complete exclusion.
Judo: From tournament: Disqualifica-

tion, forfeit placing and any medals or awards. From International Judo Federation: first offence — two-year suspension to include the world championships and/or Olympic Games, international events; Second offence — life ban.
Rugby league: Investigation. Disqualification, suspension; fine if found guilty of an offence.
Swimming: Four-year suspension for a positive test for steroids, the period to cover the Olympic Games after the offence. Stimulants and other substances carry a two-year penalty. If four swimmers from one nation test positive within a 12-month period, the whole nation is suspended for four years.
Tennis: Class one: first offence — one-year suspension; Second offence — life ban. Class two: first offence — three-month suspension; Second offence — one-year suspension; Third offence — life ban. Class three: first offence — warning; second offence — three-month suspension; Third offence — one-year ban.
Weightlifting: Anabolic agents, peptide hormones, masking agents, diuretics and/or pharmacological, chemical and physical manipulation of urine: first offence — life ban plus fine; Offence involving other substances: first offence — lesser suspension plus fine; Second offence — life ban plus fine.



Dettori smiles as he mounts Classic Cliche before the big race yesterday. His backers were less happy afterwards. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

Frankie's poor form bucks the system

IT'S a well-known fact that Kipling's *If* is written up somewhere prominent at Wimbledon. The reason they don't need it at race meetings is that, as far as punters are concerned, they are well acquainted with *um-ti, tum-ti triumph and disaster* and treat those two imposters just the same.

On Wednesday nobody was the least bit sympathetic that I had lost twenty quid on well-tipped duff runners, not even when I pointed out that for twenty quid you could buy enough baked beans to feed a family for a year. Twenty quid evidently means nothing to these blokes. Show them the equivalent in 14oz cans and they just look at you.

Funny how you can still retain the urge to pick a winning horse, though. Hope triumphs over experience, but idiosyncrasy triumphs over both. The trouble is that, despite the pure wonderfulness of well-bred horseflesh thundering around the stunning Goodwood course, despite the uniquely exciting phenomenon of grandstand cheering as foam-decked gee-goes attain the final furlong, there is absolutely no point being here if you don't adopt a horse for the duration and throw money at it. Obviously the next step for me was to stop losing and start winning. A "system" seemed to be the answer, although I have a nasty feeling that this idea has been thought of before.

Having failed to pick a winner by its own form on Wednesday, it seemed a good course of action to pick a jockey instead. As a scheme, this had the added advantage

Lynne Truss finds that Goodwood can be far from glorious if your method of picking a winner leaves you out of pocket

that, since Frankie Dettori is the only jockey I've heard of (and he was riding all day), my choice was, happily, no choice at all. Picking a foldable rucksack (to transport my winnings), I set out for the bookies with a certain confidence. Frankie's horses sounded like excellent mounts, in any case — Noisette in the 2.15; Bodyguard in the 2.45; Classic Cliche, the favourite, in the 3.20. I liked the sound of Bodyguard, in particular — he was described as a "useful" colt, a school-report adjective

Double Trigger's triumph 34 Today's Goodwood card ... 35

that suggests that he sometimes insists on helping with the mucking out ("No, no, I'll do it").

Well, hindsight operates a lot in sport, doesn't it? After Justin Leonard won the Open Championship at Troon last week, it was amazing how many people said "I knew he'd do that". Here beside the emerald sward, I can honestly say that I was attracted to Dazzle (who won the first race), but only because her



colour was intriguingly described as "bay or brown", when you would think someone would know the difference. But no hum, all split milk now. Noisette, running with six months' supply of my personal baked beans piled awkwardly on her nose, came ninth out of ten, and the only consolation was that her owner, Sheikh Mohammed, probably cared even more than I did, which served him right for being such a scoundrel.

Come on Frankie! You can do it! You did it loads of times once, didn't you? Hoping to encourage him personally, I raced to the parade ring to see him mount Bodyguard, got odds of 9-2 and then retired to an excellent vantage point to watch Frankie burn up the turf. He was now in a way beautiful all-green shirt and cap, which looked lucky. Yet, curiously enough, the winner of this race was Dazzle, ridden by Kieren Fallon. "Fallon!" I said, the name ringing a bell from the racing on Wednesday. What a swizz. Fallon always loses, surely? Isn't he known for it? And so it went on, I'm afraid, with me sticking to my system like a fool. The biggest

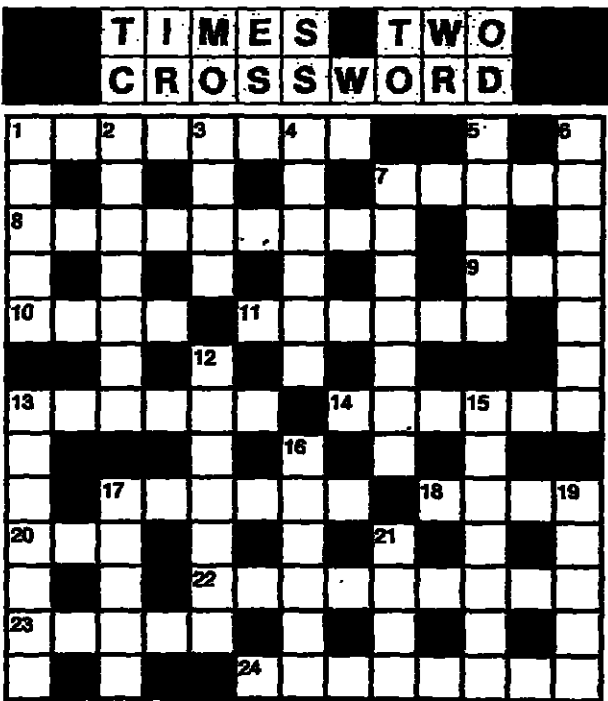
race of the afternoon was the Crown Goodwood Cup, in which Dettori, now in a very fetching blue, rode Classic Cliche, "one of the top stayers in Europe" — which sounds like one of those guests who won't leave, but is, in fact, a horse that can run two miles without getting puffed out, clutching the rail and then falling over. But it was not Frankie's day, somehow. A cunning plan to surprise the others and overtake them on the home stretch (a classic cliché in itself) went wrong at the last minute and, in a sensational finish, Dettori came second behind Double Trigger.

Now, I don't blame Frankie for any of this. Everyone says he's a lovely bloke. In the flesh, he's very short, of course; but I don't forget people also say that about the Queen and Tom Conti. All I would mention here is that race days are a bit tough for the jockeys because, very noticeably, they never get a break for a cup of tea, and, in

fact, barely have time between races for the necessary ironing.

What sterling fellows they are: in the circumstances. After not winning the Goodwood Cup, Dettori dismounted without his trademark circus trick, but otherwise looked completely unconcerned. And considering his warning committee was the rather starchy retinue of Sheikh Mohammed — got up like the cast of *Reservoir Dogs* — this was a real tribute to him.

My final flogging was on the 3.50 Schweppes Golden Mile, a handicap in which Dettori's horse was Star Talent, described as "not the most reliable of performers". Hmm. The way I see it, you lose some, you lose some. One door closes and another shuts. I went for the ten-quad bet again and Frankie came twelfth. When you've got a system, you see, you stick with it, all the way. Otherwise you'd be leaving everything to chance, which would never, never do.



No 1161

ACROSS

- 1 Disparage (6)
- 7 Environmentally aware (5)
- 8 Animal exhibition (9)
- 9 That was printed correctly (3)
- 10 Enthusiastic about (4)
- 11 One acting as king (6)
- 13 On a plane (6)
- 14 Cup rest (6)
- 17 Kitchen: slave boat (6)
- 18 Trading, auction room (4)
- 20 Scots name, found in *fiancé* (3)
- 22 Object religiously protected (6,3)
- 23 A sense: small sample (5)
- 24 Fish: fail to cope (8)

DOWN

- 1 Animated deer (5)
- 2 Drawn out (7)
- 3 African country (4): (meal) for taking away (2,2)
- 4 Food-store room (6)
- 5 Animal; unpleasant person (5)
- 6 One that puts down animals (7)
- 7 Army officer: common (7)
- 12 Take apart to study (7)
- 13 Weakness (7)
- 15 Happened (7)
- 16 Wood/graphite rod (6)
- 17 Grid (tech) (5)
- 19 One built at Babel (5)
- 21 Girl's admirer (4)

The solution to 1160 will be published Wednesday, August 6

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